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CONFIDENTIAL.

PART VII.

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

November 1876.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Correspondence respecting Affairs in Turkey.

Part VII.

No. 1.

Consul Moore to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 7. Political.)

My Lord, *Jerusalem, October* 19, 1876.

IN present circumstances I think it opportune to inform your Lordship of the character of the present Governor of Jerusalem. Faïk Bey is thoroughly corrupt. His conduct was particularly unworthy in connection with the recent call for the Redif of this Liwa. Illegal exemptions from military service were granted for money, and from those who had a legal right to exemption, money was exacted before their claims were admitted. This functionary thus traded on the troubles of his country and the misfortune (for it is nothing less) of the poor peasantry, and his example did not fail to be imitated by his subordinates.

Faïk Bey is the brother-in-law to the ex-Grand Vizier Mahmood Nedim Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) NOEL TEMPLE MOORE.

No. 2.

M. Contostavlos to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, November 1.)

Monsieur, *Légation de Grèce à Londres.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-inclus un exemplaire du discours que M. le Président du Conseil a prononcé dans la séance du $\frac{7}{19}$ de ce mois. Ce discours a servi d'introduction à divers projets de loi, dictés par les circonstances vis-à-vis des éventualités pouvant surgir à l'avenir.

Vous y voudrez bien remarquer, Monsieur, que la ligne de conduite que le Ministère actuel s'est tracée dès le commencement de la crise présente en Orient, reste aujourd'hui encore, telle qu'elle a été dans le passé: attitude pacifique pour le présent; liberté d'action pour l'avenir. Nous comptons rester fidèles à ce programme comme nous l'avons fait jusqu'à présent, et nous souhaitons que les circonstances politiques nous viennent en aide dans l'accomplissement de cette tâche.

Quant aux préparatifs militaires dont il est question dans le discours de M. Coumoundouros et aux projets de loi qui s'y rattachent, vous connaissez très bien, Monsieur, les raisons graves qui en ont fait une nécessité absolue au Ministère actuel. L'oubli complet des populations Grecques de la Turquie de la part de la diplomatie Européenne, la conduite incompréhensible du Gouvernement Ottoman vis-à-vis de la

Grèce dans presque toutes les questions que nous avons eu à traiter avec lui, l'évanouissement des espérances que l'Hellénisme avait fondées sur les recommandations pacifiques de l'Occident; l'agitation des esprits produite dans tout le Royaume Hellénique, par ce triste mécompte dont le Gouvernement porte aujourd'hui la responsabilité, tout cela devait imposer au Gouvernement Royal l'obligation impérieuse de penser à l'armement nécessaire du pays, afin d'éviter le juste blâme de ne pas avoir paré à temps aux éventualités, d'autant plus qu'une de ces éventualités serait pour l'Orient de se voir abandonné à lui-même par la diplomatie Européenne, et autorisé, pour ainsi dire, à régler ses affaires et à décider de son avenir sans l'intervention de l'Europe.

Mais je dois le répéter, toutes ces mesures législatives proposées à la Chambre n'impliquent aucun changement dans la politique de paix que le Gouvernement Royal a pratiquée jusqu'à ce jour, et qu'il se propose de poursuivre aussi à l'avenir. Toute pensée d'offensive qui ne manquerait pas de créer de nouvelles difficultés à la diplomatie, est bien loin de nos vues. Seulement comme nous n'avons pas jusqu'ici engagé notre liberté d'action pour les événements qui pourraient se dérouler en Orient, nous ne pouvons pas non plus l'engager aujourd'hui. Nous aimons toutefois à conserver l'espérance, que la sollicitude des Grandes Puissances pour la paix générale, et l'esprit de justice qui anime les Gouvernements Européens et dont la Grèce a eu tant de preuves jusqu'ici, feront bientôt sortir la nation Hellénique d'une situation dont le Gouvernement Royal est le premier à pressentir toutes les difficultés.

Vous voudrez bien, Monsieur, faire l'usage nécessaire du contenu de ma présente, dans le cas que vous soyez interrogé par M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Grande Bretagne sur les faits y relatifs.

Agréez, &c.

No. 3.

M. Contostavlos to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, November* 1.)

Légation de Grèce à Londres.

Monsieur,

VOUS voudrez bien relever du rapport de M. Condourioti ci-joint en copie que la Porte, contrairement à ses engagements, se propose d'établir des colonies de Circassiens dans des localités situées en Macédoine, et nommément dans la Chalcidique, dont tous les habitants sont Grecs.

Cette circonstance m'impose la nécessité de vous entretenir de nouveau de cette question, et de vous charger spécialement de vous appésantir sur la nécessité d'obtenir de la Porte qu'elle fasse une mention formelle de la Macédoine dans l'énumération des Provinces où elle s'engage à ne pas établir des Colonies Circassiennes.

En effet, ainsi que je l'ai expliqué à M. Coundourioti, par ma dépêche du 10 Août dernier, pour que la Grèce soit à l'abri des incursions des bandes de brigands venant du territoire Ottoman, il ne suffira pas d'en éloigner le foyer à une certaine distance des frontières Helléniques, mais il faudra le reléguer au délà des extrêmes limites des provinces habitées par des Grecs, car il est démontré par l'expérience que la contagion du brigandage pourrait facilement se propager aux endroits les plus éloignés du lieu où il a pris naissance.

Indépendamment de cette raison les relations commerciales de la Grèce avec l'Epire, Thessalie, et Macédoine réclament impérieusement que la sécurité des communications ne soit pas à chaque instant troublée par la présence de ces hordes sauvages et pillardes.

Nous ajouterons qu'il serait aussi dans l'intérêt du maintien des bonnes rélations entre la Grèce et la Turquie que les populations Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman n'eussent pas de sujets de mécontentement qui pourraient à la longue les forcer à recourir aux armes contre le pouvoir de la Porte; car toute levée de boucliers des populations unies à la Grèce par la communauté de race et de religion, ne pourrait qu'amener l'altération de nos rapports avec la Turquie et créer de graves complications.

Par suite de toutes ces considérations, j'aime à espérer que le Cabinet auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, voudra bien interposer ses bons offices auprès de la Sublime Porte afin que le Gouvernement Ottoman veuille bien nous donner les éclaircissements nécessaires sur les termes, localités circonvoisines, dont il a fait usage dans sa note en expliquant qu'ils comprennent la Macédoine toute entière. Cette explication

devient indispensable pour éviter toute équivoque sur le contenu de cette note dont vous trouverez ci-joint une copie.

M. Coundourioti a reçu l'ordre d'insister auprès de la Porte sur la mention formelle de Macédoine et je me flatte de l'espoir que l'appui bienveillant de Sa Majesté l'Empéreur d'Allemagne ne nous fera pas défaut.

M. Coundourioti signale la nécessité de faire entrer dans les conditions de la paix une clause, par laquelle la Turquie prendrait l'engagement de ne pas envoyer des colons Circassiens dans les provinces de son Empire habitées par des Chrétiens.

Cette idée a déjà été énoncée par le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'Italie, qui répondant à une députation, a dit qu'une des conditions de la paix devrait porter sur l'engagement à assumer par la Porte de ne pas modifier les conditions ethnologiques des populations Chrétiennes de son Empire par l'introduction d'éléments hétéroclites.

Je n'ai pas manqué de charger notre Représentant à Rome d'exprimer nos vœux pour que l'Italie prenne l'initiative d'une pareille proposition.

Si l'Europe imposait cette condition à la Porte elle rendrait par là un service éminent à la cause de l'humanité et de la civilisation.

Agréez, &c.

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

Statement of Circassian Settlements already effected in Macedonia and Thessaly.

Macedonia.—In the neighbourhood of Serres, about 10,000 souls have immigrated since 1863. They are settled in the villages of Niolia, Ormoli, Barakli, Ernikeuy, Houmounto, Elsiani, Demir-Hissar, Boutokowo, Apidies, Soucha-Bania, and Koulia.

In the province of Drama, at a place called Bounarbashi, 500 Circassians were established towards the close of 1866. In the province of Salonica, near Mount Olympus, 5,700 Circassians have been settled, also 450 families at Katerina.

In the province of Bitolia (Monastir), 550 families are settled in different villages.

Thessaly.—In the Province of Larissa 185 Circassians were settled in November 1875, 315 during May, and 225 during September last. Of these 300 are at Armyro, 125 at Balabali, and 50 at Loxada. The others remain provisionally at Larissa and Volo, pending their definite settlement. Besides these, 600 Tartars were imported into Thessaly during August of last year.

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

Safvet Pasha to M. Coundourioti.

Le $\frac{15}{27}$ *Septembre*, 1876.

M. l'Envoyé,

J'AI reçu la note responsive que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le 28 Août, relativement au projet attribué au Gouvernement Impérial d'établir des colonies le long de la frontière Hellénique.

En me référant à mes communications précédentes à ce sujet j'ai l'honneur de vous déclarer que la Sublime Porte a décidé de n'établir à l'avenir de ces colonies, ni dans le Vilayet de Janina, qui comprend l'Epire et la Thessalie, ni dans les localités convoisines d'où l'on pouvait aisément passer dans ce vilayet.

J'aime à espérer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Hellénique voudra bien, lorsqu'il aura reçu communication de cette mesure, reconnaître combien nous tenons à faire disparaître jusqu'à l'ombre d'un doute sur notre désir de maintenir et de consolider les relations de bon voisinage qui existent si heureusement entre les deux Etats.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET

No. 4.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 915.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 31, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes told me yesterday that the Russian proposal for a limited armistice would be supported at Constantinople by the French Ambassador, and by the Representatives of the other Guaranteeing Powers, and that he had reason, therefore, to hope that it would be accepted by the Porte.

In execution of the telegraphic instruction which is recorded in your Lordship's despatch No. 917 of the 23rd instant, I informed the Duke, with reference to his inquiry as to what would be the attitude of England if Russia actually invaded Turkey, that Her Majesty's Government are at present unable to pronounce an opinion upon this very grave question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 5.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November* 1.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 31 *Octobre*, 1876.

LE Généralissime Abdul Kérim Pacha vient de nous télégraphier qu'après un combat victorieux, l'armée Impériale est entrée glorieusement à Alexinitz.

No. 6.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, October* 31, 1876, 7·10 P.M.

I HAVE had some conversation with Count Andrassy on the language which Prince Gortchakow has held to Lord A. Loftus. He said that if Her Majesty's Government accept a Conference, he will do so also, though he has no hope of its leading to a good result, and he considers that the preliminary deliberations of the Representatives should not be of a more formal character than meetings which they have had on previous occasions with a view to act in concert.

The demands of Russia considered probable by Lord A. Loftus are what he has foreseen from the beginning they would be, and if the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from the Provinces is insisted on, it will, of course, be refused by the Porte; and, as Russia's imposing it can only mean war, it might be more expedient that the war should come before preparations for it are fully made, than that it should be postponed for some months by a Conference.

I said he had himself spoken last week of moderate reforms which should be imposed on the Porte; but he said that the time seems passed for such reforms, and their acceptance could have been secured by a threat or a naval demonstration.

He seems to feel seriously the gravity of the situation, asked me to leave a Memorandum with him of what Prince Gortchakow may be expected to propose that he might show to the Emperor.

If the Porte were to give some guarantee to the Powers for a general measure of reform for all the Christian provinces being carried out, his Excellency would, I think, consider it a better solution than a measure limited to the northern provinces.

No. 7.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 1.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Pesth, October* 31, 1876, 10·30 P.M.

WHEN I saw Count Andrassy this afternoon he told me of the conclusion of the armistice, and having telegraphed to Count Beust that he thought England and Austria

should accept it as satisfactory. He came to see me, however, after dinner to say he had received a telegram stating that the Russian Government had announced that if the armistice of six weeks was not agreed to by the Porte immediately, General Ignatiew and the members of his Embassy were to leave Constantinople.

I answered this was evidently a comedy *à la Gortchakow*, as his Highness must have known when he published such instructions that the question was already arranged. Count Andrassy said that this was his own impression, but that his Highness had adopted such means of seeking popularity it was impossible to calculate on the next steps which he might take.

I then asked what he thought of the German Emperor's speech on the opening of Parliament; he said that its reference to the neighbouring States was ambiguous and open to different interpretations, and that it had exhibited the understanding of the three Emperors as reduced to a shadow.

I said that it could not, however, be for the interest of Germany to support Russia by arms; and he seemed to feel confident that there was no probability of such an eventuality.

His remaining here this week will depend on orders he expects from the Emperor, and as I must go to Vienna to-morrow I shall return on Thursday evening if he does not leave.

No. 8.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received November* 1, 2·9 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 1, 1876, 11·40 A.M.

RUSSIAN ultimatum was sent in last night.

The Consuls in the interior are ordered to go to the sea-ports for greater security, and Russian interests will be entrusted to the German Embassy.

No. 9.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 1, 3·12 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 1, 1876, 1·30 P.M.

TURKISH Ambassador leaves this to-morrow for Constantinople; his departure does not arise from any political cause, but from continued illness. The members of the Embassy remain at their posts.

The staff of the Grand Duke Nicholas still here has received orders to be ready to start at a moment's notice. Every necessary arrangement for war has been made; 80,000 tons of lead were purchased by the Russian Government yesterday.

Nevertheless, there is reason to suppose that the campaign will not be opened at present.

No. 10.

Mr. Dorie to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 1, 4·40 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 1, 1876, 4·20 P.M.

FOLLOWING circumstances signified to Lord A. Loftus from Colonel Wellesley:—

(Secret.)

Orders expected to-night at General Staff as to whether there will be mobilization or not.

I am told that if the orders are to prepare mobilization, a manifest will appear in two days, but that no order to move will be given until two days after the issue of the manifesto.

An internal 5 per cent. loan is about to be issued.

Military Council was held last-night at the General Staff.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 11.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.[a]—(*Received November* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 1, 1876, 7 P.M.

PORTE will consent to the demands of the Russian ultimatum, and orders are already sent to the Military Commanders to suspend all operations. An answer in this sense will be sent to General Ignatiew this evening.

I have informed Belgrade.

No. 12.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 1.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Private.) *Pesth, November* 1, 1876.

WITH a view to tempt Count Andrássy to speak plainly, last night I observed, as an entirely personal opinion, that circumstances appeared to me to be driving England and Austria, whatever their wishes might be, towards the relations which he had wished to establish between them four years ago.

I did not invite an answer, but his Excellency said that if Great Britain had then accepted his proposals we should not be in our present difficulties, or exposed to the eventualities with which we are now threatened.

No. 13.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 1, 1876, 5 P.M.

I SEE no objection to Major Gonne proceeding to Servia.

No. 14.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1876.

YOU may leave confidentially with Count Andrassy a memorandum of proposals expected to be made by Prince Gortchakow, as suggested in your telegram of yesterday.

No. 15.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 463 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1876.

I LEARN from your Excellency's telegram of yesterday that Count Andrassy had requested you to leave with him a memorandum of the language used by Prince Gortchakow to Lord A. Loftus respecting a Conference, as reported in the telegram from Yalta of the 29th ultimo, and of the ideas of Lord A. Loftus as to the demands which Russia will probably make, should a Conference assemble.

I authorize you to give Count Andrassy confidentially the Memorandum which he requires.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 16.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

(Immediate and Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will state to Mr. Secretary Hardy that his Lordship has been informed that Colonel Lennox, R.E., the newly appointed Military Attaché to the Constantinople Embassy, leaves for his post on the 3rd. His Lordship has also heard from Her Majesty's Ambassador that the other Governments intend appointing their Military Attachés as the Military Delegates for arranging the armistice, and I am to suggest that it might be advantageous that Her Majesty's Government should adopt the same course and appoint Colonel Lennox to proceed to the Montenegrin frontier instead of intrusting that duty to an officer not attached to Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service.

If Mr. Secretary Hardy agrees in this suggestion Lord Derby would telegraph to Sir Henry Elliot accordingly, and, if Captain Barnaby has already been communicated with, he might be told that it will not be necessary to appoint additional officers for this duty as the Military Attachés will be able to undertake it since the number of Military Delegates required proves to be less than was at first supposed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 17.

Lord Tenterden to Lord A. Loftus.[a]

My dear Loftus, *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1876.

WHEN the long despatch, No. 554 of the 30th ultimo, was in preparation, I came across an error in cyphering which, if not noticed, may lead to confusion.

In the telegram to Sir H. Elliot of September 15 explaining autonomy the cypher seems to have been sent "local officers," it should have been "local affairs." I was away at the time, and only found it out a day or two ago in referring to the MS. It has been printed "officers" in the printed papers.

It is corrected to "affairs" in the present despatch of October 30, but it is as well that I should call your attention to it.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 18.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 468.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1876.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador called upon me this day, and communicated to me a telegram which his Government has received from Constantinople, to the following effect:—

Count Zichy states that on the 29th ultimo the Council of Ministers had arrived at the following resolution, with a view to put a stop to the war, viz., that an armistice of two months should be concluded, to be guaranteed by the Mediating Powers, to begin on a certain day fixed, and that hostilities should therefore cease immediately. That Delegates should be nominated by the Guaranteeing Powers and by the Porte, and that they should be sent immediately to the theatre of war in Servia and Montenegro, and commence forthwith settling the line of demarcation. If, contrary to expectation, a durable peace should not be concluded by the time the two months is over, a further prolongation of six weeks might be settled, which could be again extended for another six weeks, according to what might be settled between the Sublime Porte and the Guaranteeing Powers.

The Imperial Turkish Government calls upon the bands who infest the territory which is not included in the lines of demarcation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as

[a] A similar letter was addressed to Sir H. Elliot, Lord Lyons, Lord Odo Russell, Sir A. Buchanan, and Sir A. Paget.

in other localities, and who continually foment discords in those provinces, to evacuate them in a week's time, and if they do not do so, they will be pursued by the Ottoman troops.

The Porte does not doubt that as this proposition of theirs agrees in all material points, word for word, with the one proposed by General Ignatiew, and as the modification respecting the two months' armistice has been accepted by Russia, the proposals above recited will be completely satisfactory to all the Powers.

Count Beust informed me that Count Andrassy is of opinion, if the conditions of the armistice are as Count Zichy reports, it would be for the general interest, and also for the interest of England, that they should be accepted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 19.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1876, 11·30 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of the 31st ultimo, I approve your suggestion that the words "under the mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers" should be substituted for the statement that the armistice would be concluded under the guarantee of the Mediating Powers.

No. 20.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1876, 11·45 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of yesterday's date, Her Majesty's Government do not intend to retain Sir A. Kemball on the spot.

Colonel Lennox is going out as permanent Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy, but has no wish to interfere with Sir A. Kemball under present circumstances, so long as your Excellency wishes to keep him at the Turkish head-quarters, where his services seem to have been so valuable.

No. 21.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 711.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 1, 1876.

YOUR telegram of the 31st ultimo has been received, and I have to inform your Excellency in reply, that Her Majesty's Government have no intention of retaining Sir A. Kemball on the ground after the armistice is regulated and defined.

Colonel Lennox is going out immediately as permanent Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy, but Her Majesty's Government have no wish to interfere with Sir A. Kemball under present circumstances, so long as your Excellency wishes to keep him at the Turkish head-quarters, where his services appear to have been so valuable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 22.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.[a]—(*Received November* 1, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November* 1, 1876, 8 P.M.

I HEAR that Servian Government are prepared to accept the armistice as agreed by the Porte, the terms of which have been made known to them by some of my colleagues.

I have not had them yet from Sir H. Elliot.

No. 23.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 1, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Yalta, November* 1, 1876.

MY audience of the Emperor put off till to-morrow, on account of anniversary of late Empress' death.

I saw Prince Gortchakow yesterday.

On my inquiry whether he had any news, he replied in the affirmative, adding that he preferred that the Emperor should communicate it to me.

I received later from St. Petersburgh telegraphic official notification of the ultimatum which General Ignatiew was instructed to address to the Porte.

I am told by the German Ambassador, who arrived here last night, that the answer is expected here to-morrow, and that hopes are entertained that the armistice demanded by General Ignatiew will be granted, if not opposed by Sir H. Elliot.

No. 24.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 2.)

(No. 207. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, October* 22, 1876.

IN my despatch No. 206 of yesterday's date I reported to your Lordship the demonstrations made at Cettigné on the receipt of the news of the capitulation of Medun, and of the withdrawal of Dervish Pasha from the positions he had recently occupied on the Montenegrin frontier in advance of Spuz. The effect upon the influential persons about the Prince was so marked that, after the despatch of the mail yesterday morning, I asked my colleagues whether it was not, in their opinion, our duty to communicate at once to our respective Governments the importance of the recent events; and the possibility not only that the war spirit might be strengthened thereby in Montenegro, but also that the flames of revolt might be kindled among the neighbouring tribes of Albania, and serious complications provoked in other directions.

The reverses which have befallen the Turks prove, I think, that my prognostications as to the impossibility of their obtaining a foothold in this Principality were well founded; and I have little doubt that, if hostilities continue, an irreparable catastrophe will overwhelm Moukhtar Pasha in his turn, and place the Herzegovina at the mercy of Prince Nicholas.

In view of these contingencies my Austrian, French, and Italian colleagues and I determined on telegraphing our opinion of the situation to our Governments; and to point out that, in the interest of the Porte itself, and to stop the effusion of blood and save the country from ruin, it is urgent that a regular armistice—even of short duration—should be concluded at once, in order that the work of pacification may be commenced without further delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

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[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 25.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 208. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, October 22, 1876.*

COLONEL THOMMEL, the Austrian Agent, was anxious that his English, French and Italian colleagues should join him in a visit to the Prince and Princess to congratulate their Highnesses on the recent victories. I had already, the evening the news arrived, upon the occasion of my meeting the Prince, offered His Highness my congratulations; and I thought that, especially as I am here as an unaccredited Agent, Her Majesty's Government would prefer that I should abstain from any such marked demonstration as would be implied by a combined and ceremonious visit. I told Colonel Thömmel as much; and my colleagues contented themselves with an informal interview which, even despite the chance of its bettering my position with the Prince, I thought it advisable not to seek for myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 26.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 209. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, October 23, 1876.*

PRINCE NICHOLAS sent yesterday afternoon to all the foreign Agents, and requested them to come to the Palace at three o'clock.

The Austrian, French, Italian, and Russian Agents and I waited accordingly upon His Highness at that hour.

The Prince stated to us that, in concert with Servia, he had decided upon accepting the armistice for six weeks only. He referred to the military reasons in favour of that course, pointing out that his people were indifferent to the rigours of a winter in their native hills; whereas the Turkish troops would not only be incapable of campaigning, but would perish by thousands from privation and cold.

His Highness laid especial stress on the fact that the fall of Medun and the retreat of Dervish Pasha to Podgoritza placed at his disposal nine additional battalions with which he could operate in the Herzegovina. He could not afford to lose these advantages, and therefore, unless the Mediating Powers could obtain from the Porte its consent to an armistice of six weeks, Montenegro would consider further negotiation on their part useless.

Upon our expressing a wish that His Highness should fix some precise date from which the armistice should commence, the Prince said that he thought that if he allowed eight days more for negotiation that period ought to suffice, and that then the armistice would naturally expire on the 15th of December. He wished us, therefore, to understand that if a formal suspension of hostilities for six weeks is not agreed to by the Porte before the end of this month, he will regard the mediation of the Powers as terminated, and will at once carry the war into the enemy's country, where he certainly has every chance of success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 27.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 211. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, October 23, 1876.*

FOUR hundred and seventy-five Turks capitulated at Medun, of whom the Prince has ordered seventy-four to be released and sent to Spuz, they being too weak to be removed to Cettigné. The remaining 400 prisoners will arrive here to-morrow, weather permitting; and I believe that Colonel Thömmel has been, or will be, asked to solicit the

Austrian Government to take charge of them, there being no accommodation for them in Cettigné, and every chance that they would suffer severely in consequence.

Fortress Medun has been razed to the ground.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 28.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 3. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, October 25, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Russian gun-boat at this port is under instructions to proceed to Nicolaieff, and will probably leave to-morrow morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 29.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 4. Political.)
My Lord, *Galatz, October 28, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to report that the Russian gun-boat still remains at Galatz. Her departure was said, in the first instance, to have been postponed to the 27th instant; and it now appears to have been put off indefinitely.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 30.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2, 12 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 2, 1876, 10·50 A.M.*

BILLS posted yesterday in the streets saying that Russian Ambassador at Constantinople would break off relations if the armistice not agreed to at once. This intended for preservation of Russian prestige.

No. 31.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2, 4·42 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 2, 1876, 2·50 P.M.*

I HAVE sent Sir A. Kemball following:—

"Russian Government have informed Porte that they will consider any excesses committed by the Turks as a violation of the armistice.

"Do all in your power to make the Commanders understand the necessity of effectual measures to prevent their occurrence."

No. 32.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2, 6·30 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 2, 1876, 2·15 P.M.*

PORTE'S acceptance of Russian ultimatum was received last night by General Ignatiew, who telegraphed it at once to Prince Gortchakow.

* Repeated to Embassies.

The terms of the note are unexceptionable, and General Ignatiew appears quite satisfied.

He has telegraphed to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro to cease hostilities at once.

No 33.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876, evening.*

COLONEL LENNOX, appointed Military Attaché at Constantinople, is coming out to Vienna on his way to act as British Delegate for arrangement of the armistice in Montenegro.

Captain Burnaby is not going there.

Major Gonne should be ready to go to Servia as soon as he receives instructions.

No. 34.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876, 7·15 P.M.*

IT has been decided to be more convenient to send Colonel Lennox, the new Military Attaché, to arrange the armistice in Montenegro instead of Captain Burnaby. He is leaving for Vienna to await instructions there.

Report as soon as it is desirable that he and Captain Gonne should proceed.

No. 35.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876, 8·8 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador has read to me a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, urging that immediate instructions be sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, to begin preliminary discussions with the other Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers on the bases of peace proposed by Her Majesty's Government. It will depend on the Powers, the Prince says, whether the result of these discussions be submitted to a Conference or to a Commission.

Count Schouvaloff said this latter phrase was not explained in the telegram, but he believed it to mean that if it was decided to dispense with a Conference, the results of the discussions would be at once presented to the Porte for acceptance, and only details be left for a Commission to deal with. If there is to be a Conference, the results would be laid before the Conference in which the Porte will be represented.

No. 36.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 558.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and read to me a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, by which he is desired, now that the question of the armistice is disposed of, to ask Her Majesty's Government, with the view of saving time, to send immediate instructions ("accélérer les instructions") to Sir Henry Elliot to begin preliminary discussions between the Representatives of the six Guaranteeing Powers on the bases of peace proposed by England. It will depend, says Prince Gortchakow, on the decision of the Powers whether the result of these discussions shall be submitted to a Conference or to a European Commission.

I asked Count Schouvaloff what was meant by the latter phrase.

Count Schouvaloff answered that it was not explained in the telegram which he had received, but that he understood it as follows:—

If a Conference takes place, the results of the preliminary discussion will be laid before the Conference, in which the Porte will be represented; if, on the other hand, it is decided to dispense with a Conference, the results arrived at will be at once laid before the Porte for acceptance, and only details would remain for consideration. These would be best dealt with by a Commission on the spot.

Count Schouvaloff spoke of the importance which his Government attaches to the question of time, and of Prince Gortchakow's desire that the question should be at once gone into.

I promised to consider what he had said and give him an early answer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 37.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 6.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876.*

THIS despatch will be delivered to you by Colonel Lennox, R.E., C.B., V.C., Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, who has been appointed to proceed to Montenegro as British Military Delegate for the arrangement of the armistice between the armies of Turkey and Montenegro, and I have to instruct you to give him every information and assistance in your power in discharging this duty.

I am, &c.
(For the Earl of Derby),
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 38.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 470.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876.*

THIS despatch will be delivered to you by Colonel Lennox, R.E., V.C., C.B., Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, who has been appointed to proceed to Montenegro as British Military Delegate for the arrangement of the armistice between the armies of Turkey and Montenegro; and I have to request you to give him every information and assistance that he may require in proceeding to undertake this duty.

I have to add that Colonel Lennox has been instructed to wait at Vienna for instructions.

I am, &c.
(For the Earl of Derby),
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 39.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 718.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876.*

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have selected Lieutenant-Colonel Home, R.E., and Captain Frazer, R.E., to proceed to Constantinople on special service.

These officers will be accompanied by two subaltern officers of Engineers, Lieutenants Cockburn and Chermside, for employment on the same service.

The Secretary of State for War has requested that your Excellency may be instructed to furnish Colonel Home with any funds he may require in carrying out the object of his mission, to be accounted for by that officer to the War Office; but it appears to me that the most convenient arrangement will be that your Excellency should endorse any bills which these officers may draw upon London to defray their expenses. I have informed the War Office accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 40.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 720.) *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government having determined that the most convenient course will be to appoint Colonel Lennox R.E., who is proceeding to Constantinople as Military Attaché, to discharge the duty of British Delegate for the arrangement of the armistice between the armies of Turkey and Montenegro, I transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of the letter which I have caused to be addressed to Colonel Lennox,* instructing him to proceed to Vienna and await there directions as to proceeding to Montenegro for the purpose.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 41.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 724.) *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876.*

Sir,

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that it has been decided, on grounds of convenience, to send Colonel Lennox, the officer recently appointed to be the Military Attaché at your Embassy, to arrange the details of the armistice in Montenegro, instead of Captain Burnaby, who was originally selected for that duty.

Colonel Lennox leaves for Vienna to-day, and will await his instructions there.

I have to request that your Excellency will report to me, as soon as it is desirable, that he and Major Gonne should proceed to their destinations.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 42.

Lord Tenterden to Colonel Lennox.

(Immediate.) *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876.*

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that, as it appears the arrangements for the armistice are to be conducted by Military Attachés, Her Majesty's Government have decided to entrust to you the duty of acting as Military Delegate, on the part of Great Britain, for arranging the armistice between the armies of Turkey and Montenegro.

It will consequently be advisable that you should proceed without loss of time to Vienna, and await there such further instructions as may be hereafter given to you.

I am to add that Major Gonne, the Military Attaché at Vienna, will act as British Delegate with the armies of Turkey and Servia.

You will be able to obtain full information at Her Majesty's Embassy at Vienna with regard to the negotiations for the armistice.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 43.

Lord Tenterden to Colonel Lennox.

Foreign Office, November 2, 1876.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you the accompanying despatches addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, and to the Honourable E. Monson,† on special service in Montenegro, requesting them to give you every information and

* No. 42.

† Nos. 37 and 38.

assistance you may require in proceeding to undertake your duties as British Delegate for the arrangement of the armistice between the armies of Turkey and Montenegro.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 44.

Lord Tenterden to Colonel Lennox.

(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, November 2, 1876.*

Sir,

WITH reference to my other letter of this day's date, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that, should you require, when in Montenegro, to telegraph to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, you can do so through Mr. Monson, who is now in Montenegro on special service on behalf of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 45.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)

(Most Confidential.) *Therapia, November 2, 1876, 5·15 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW assures me that it was at the instance of Prince Bismarck that the Russian Government threatened to break off relations with the Porte if it did not consent to a short armistice.

No. 46.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November 2, 1876, 3·30 P.M.*

EMPEROR, at my audience to-day, was in spirit and language most conciliatory and satisfactory.

His Majesty said that his ultimatum to the Porte was occasioned by the news of the complete defeat of the Servians three days ago, and the fear that it might be followed by similar atrocities as occurred in Bulgaria. His Majesty stated that he had received this morning a telegram from Constantinople announcing that the Porte would probably accept proposed armistice. Official answer of the Porte would be given to-day.

His Majesty also read to me another telegram, saying that the Porte had already sent to their military commanders orders to suspend all further military operations. His Imperial Majesty evidently desires that the Conference should meet without delay, and requests that necessary instructions may be immediately sent to Ambassadors at Constantinople for deliberation of preliminaries.

He accepts the peace proposals submitted by your Lordship as basis.

His Majesty expressed his anxious desire for an understanding and co-operation with England. He hoped that the unjust suspicions entertained in England of his policy would be discarded. He pledged his honour that he had no views of conquest or of Constantinople, and repeated this declaration several times and in the most solemn manner.

All he required was the amelioration of the position of the Christians, but not resting on Turkish promises, in which he had no reliance, but on real efficient guarantees. He said the Treaty of 1856 replaced a Russian by a European Protectorate of the Christians, and since then Europe had not fulfilled this duty.

He wished to maintain the European concert, but if Europe remained passive, he would be obliged to act alone. He could not understand why there should not be a complete understanding between England and Russia when they had a common aim, and when he gave the most sacred assurances of his disinterested policy.

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* Repeated to Queen and Embassies.

No. 47.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2, at night.)

(Télégraphie.)
(Private and Confidential.) *Yalta, November 2, 1876, 6 P.M.*

AT my audience the Emperor referred with great emotion to his daughter. "Is it likely," said His Majesty, "that I should entertain views hostile to England, which might bring about rupture between the two countries, when my daughter is married to an English Prince?"

His Imperial Majesty added, he had received yesterday a telegram from the Duchess of Edinburgh, saying that the Duke had been ordered with his ship to Besika Bay, and that it was uncertain when he would return.

No. 48.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 262. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 26, 1876.*

THE Ottoman Minister has informed me that he had considered it his duty to ask the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs for explanations respecting the warlike and hostile tone of M. Coumoundouros' speech in the Chamber, of which I forwarded an abridged translation to your Lordship in my despatch No 260 of the 21st instant, and that M. Contostavlos had assured him that the speech had been incorrectly reported, and that the words actually spoken conveyed no hostile intentions whatever towards Turkey.

Photiades Bey said that he had reported the step which he had taken and the explanations which he had received to his Government, with whom it would rest to take further notice or not of the speech in question and of the present attitude of the Hellenic Government.

When I saw M. Contostavlos on the following day, he endeavoured to persuade me that the policy of the Government had not undergone any change during my absence, and that the measures proposed for the organization of the naval and military forces of the country did not materially differ from those which had been submitted to the Chamber towards the close of the preceding session; that there was no present intention of engaging in a war with Turkey, but that it was necessary that Greece should be placed as far as possible in a state of preparation for any emergency, in view of the threatening aspect of the Eastern question.

In the conversation which ensued, I took an opportunity of mentioning that it was certainly the wish of Her Majesty's Government that any administrative concessions and reforms which were given by the Porte to the Slav provinces should likewise be extended to the Hellenic populations in Turkey. M. Contostavlos expressed his satisfaction at this, and said that your Lordship had spoken in the same sense to M. Gennadius, and that the Austrian and Italian Governments and he believed the other Powers also would be ready to assist in securing that object.

In the sitting of the Chamber on Monday last M. Coumoundouros agreed that the general discussion on the proposals and policy of the Government should commence on Monday next, the 30th instant, it being considered important that it should not take place until after the King's return.

MM. Tricoupi and Deligeorges had pressed M. Coumoundouros in vain to state whether his measures had met with His Majesty's approval; and they felt that it would have been inconvenient to have brought about a Ministerial crisis, which might have been the result of an earlier discussion, whilst His Majesty was still abroad.

It seems now uncertain, however, whether His Majesty will return as soon as his Ministers had expected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 49.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November 3.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 2 Novembre, 1876.*

LE Généralissime Abdul Kérim Pacha nous informe qu'à la suite d'un combat victorieux l'armée Impériale vient d'entrer à Deligrad.

No. 50.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3, 11 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November 2, 1876.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs says that he has heard, though he cannot vouch for its truth, that Russia intends to demand expulsion of Circassians from Bulgaria. He thinks this would be going too far, though when Greece complained of arrival of Circassian families at Volo he urged the Porte not to increase the numbers of Mussulman population in Christian provinces.

No. 51.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3, 12·58 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, November 3, 1876, 11·30 A.M.*

RUSSIAN Consul and wife left this suddenly yesterday. News of the fall of Deligrad has been received.

No. 52.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3.)

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 3, 1876.*

DUC DECAZES hears that General Ignatiew is pressing on his colleagues at Constantinople to begin Conference at once.

The Duke is not disposed to act so precipitately. He begs Her Majesty's Government to communicate to him as soon as possible their views on the following points:—

Where should the Conference meet?

When should it meet?

Of whom should it be composed?

If it be held at Constantinople, should each Government appoint a special Plenipotentiary in addition to its resident Ambassador?

What should be the basis of the Conference?

What instructions should be given to the Plenipotentiaries?

The Duke sent yesterday by telegraph to the French Ambassador at Constantinople an order to come immediately to Paris for instructions, but a telegram sent hence to-morrow morning would be in time to cancel this order.

No. 53.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Foreign Office, November 3, 1876, evening.*

THE following telegram has been received from Sir Henry Elliot, dated November 2nd:—

"General Ignatiew assures me that it was at the instance of Prince Bismarck that the Russian Government threatened to break off relations with the Porte if it did not consent to the short armistice."

No. 54.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 3, 1876, 7 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government have received with the greatest satisfaction the assurance given you by the Emperor of his anxious desire for an understanding and co-operation with England, and his solemn statement that he pledged his honour that he had no views of conquest on Constantinople.

Her Majesty's Government will give an answer as soon as possible respecting the proposed discussions and Conference. Speak in this sense to His Imperial Majesty and Prince Gortchakow.

No. 55.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 561 A.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 3, 1876.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 2nd instant, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have received with the greatest satisfaction the assurance which the Emperor has given to you of his anxious desire for an understanding and co-operation with England, and his solemn statement that he pledged his honour that he had no views on Constantinople nor of conquest.

You will speak in this sense both to His Imperial Majesty and Prince Gortchakow, and you will add that Her Majesty's Government will lose no time in communicating their views as to the proposed discussions and Conference.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 56.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 563.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 3, 1876.*

I HAD some further conversation with the Russian Ambassador this afternoon on the subject of the communication he had made to me yesterday from his Government, urging that the Representatives of the Six Powers at Constantinople should be at once authorized to commence discussions on the basis of peace proposed by England.

I told Count Schouvaloff that I saw two reasons against giving such instructions.

It was no doubt true that time was of importance, but we must also remember that the matters to be discussed involved very difficult and complicated questions, which could not be settled in haste. It would be good economy to incur some delay, if we could thereby ensure a thorough examination of all the points at issue, with the prospect of arriving at a solid and permanent arrangement.

It seemed to me in the first place that the leading part in such a discussion as Prince Gortchakow proposed would be better entrusted to other persons than those who had conducted the negotiations at Constantinople of the last twelve months. During the course of those negotiations some at least, if not most, of the Representatives at Constantinople had probably become more or less committed to personal views, which would tend to embarrass them and to weaken their position in bringing forward any fresh propositions which the present circumstances might render advisable. A fresh negotiator would be more free to advocate or discuss such propositions, while the permanent Representatives at Constantinople, supposing the deliberations to take place there, would be able to assist with their advice and experience.

In the second place, I said, the British Government had always contemplated, in the event of a Conference taking place, that England at least should be represented in it by a special Plenipotentiary. Now that a Conference seemed almost inevitable, there would be something of absurdity in sending out Plenipotentiaries to take part in it, who would find the principal points already more or less settled by preliminary discussions.

The conversation then turned on the question of the manner in which a Conference should be brought about, and I told his Excellency that as there seemed to be some hesi-

tation on the part of other Powers, Her Majesty's Government were prepared to take the initiative in proposing that such a meeting should take place.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 57.

Lord Tenterden to the Hon. J. C. Vivian.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 3, 1876.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 2nd instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will acquaint Mr. Secretary Hardy that Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Vienna and Constantinople have been informed that Colonel Lennox, R.E., has been appointed to discharge the duty of British Delegate for the arrangement of the armistice between the armies of Turkey and Montenegro; and I am to transmit to you a copy of the letter which his Lordship caused to be addressed to Colonel Lennox, instructing him to proceed to Vienna and await there directions as to proceeding to Montenegro for the purpose.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 58.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 3, 1876, 6·55 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of last night, Count Schouvaloff has requested me to correct the expressions used by him respecting a Commission, as he says he was not authorized to use that phrase. He wishes to say that "the preliminary discussions will be followed by a Conference, or by some other form of concert which may be agreed upon by the Powers."

No. 59.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 3, 7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November 3, 1876, 1 P.M.*

AFTER dinner yesterday Emperor informed me that the Porte had officially accepted the armistice, observing on the successful result of firmness in dealing with the Porte. In further conversation with His Majesty I took the opportunity to refer to the stipulation in your Lordship's peace proposals, "that there was no question of the creation of tributary State or States."

Prince Gortchakow called on me yesterday. On my referring to the desirableness of confining the question of autonomy within such limits as would be acceptable to Austria, his Highness replied, "Leave that to me; I will take that on myself, and I guarantee that there shall be no breach between Austria and Russia."

I have reason to believe that Russia can count on support of Germany.

Prince Gortchakow stated that if in the Conference to be held, Russia should be in a minority on the question of autonomy, General Ignatiew would place on record proposals of Russia and withdraw.

It is essential that the European concert should be maintained on this question, even at the price of mutual concessions, and question of autonomy appears to me to affect Austria more directly than England.

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* No. 42.

No. 60.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 141.) *Tehran, September 27, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires has lately been in communication with the Persian Government on the subject of complaints which have been forwarded to the Russian Legation here from the Military Governor at Erivan, to the effect that Persian Mohammedan priests of Khoi had been endeavouring to excite disaffection among the Mohammedan population of that district by preparing them for the proclamation of the Jehad, or religious war against Christians.

As the Russian Chargé d'Affaires was unable, however, to give the names of the priests referred to, it would appear that the complaints which have reached the Russian authorities on this subject are of a vague nature.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 61.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1162.) *Therapia, October 17, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches on the subject of the Circassians sent to the neighbourhood of the Greek frontier, I have the honour to inform you that the Porte has promised in a note to the Greek Minister that none shall for the future be sent to Thessaly or Epirus or the adjacent districts.

This appears to be all that the Greek Government can possibly be entitled to ask with a view to the tranquillity of their frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 62.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1163.) *Therapia, October 18, 1876.*

My Lord,

FROM the tone of the despatch of the Greek Government to their Chargé d'Affaires in London, of which a copy was inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 601 of the 28th ultimo, it would look as though the difficulties connected with the Greek nationality question were solely attributable to the Porte.

I have continually urged the Porte to give way to the wishes of the Greek Government, and as a matter of policy, to put an end to a question which owes its origin to the organized system formerly in force by which the Greek authorities fraudulently, and contrary to Treaty, gave certificates of nationality to Turkish subjects and withdrew them from the jurisdiction of their Government.

In the negotiations which followed delays were interposed first by the one Government and then by the other; but the principal concessions have unquestionably been on the side of the Turks, while the Greeks have yielded but little of their primitive demands.

The tone of the Greek Government has been frequently arrogant, and almost menacing; and the progress made in the negotiation is the result of the more conciliatory disposition of their Minister here in executing his instructions.

When I showed him the passage in the despatch inclosed by your Lordship in which it is said that the Porte took care continuously to change its Commissioners, in order that those engaged in the negotiations should be ignorant of what had previously passed, he was much surprised at a statement for which he knew there was no foundation beyond the fact that one of the Commissioners being the Foreign Under-Secretary of State, when that functionary was replaced, his duties had devolved on his successor.

M. Coundouriotti said he would call the attention of his Government to the incorrectness of the charge, which I allude to merely as showing the spirit in which the Hellenic Government have brought the matter before your Lordship.

I have, however, again very strongly urged Safvet Pasha to give way upon the points

still unsettled, and he has promised to discuss them with the Greek Minister immediately after the Bairam, when it is to be hoped that an understanding will be come to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 63.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1166.) *Therapia, October 18, 1876.*

My Lord,

DJEVDET Pasha has been appointed Minister of Justice in the place of Khalil Sheriff Pasha, who will continue Minister without portfolio.

Djevdet Pasha, who is considered a very able man and a probable future Grand Vizier, is certainly better fitted for his post than his predecessor, who had few qualifications for it.

The appointment of Halet Pasha as Minister of Commerce, which has taken place at the same time, is not one likely to prove satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 64.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1171.) *Therapia, October 19, 1876.*

My Lord,

PRINCE GHIKA, the Roumanian agent, returned here a few days ago after a short leave of absence.

He describes the state of things in the Principalities as most disastrous, the stagnation of every branch of industry having produced universal private distress, and threatening public bankruptcy.

He had had a conversation with Safvet Pasha, who had spoken to him about the passage through the Principalities of Russian volunteers for Servia, and of the mobilization of the Roumanian army, and he believed that upon both points he had been able to satisfy the Turkish Minister.

He had shown that it was impossible for Prince Charles' Government to prevent the passage of Russian subjects provided with regular passports.

With regard to the troops that had been called out, he had admitted with frankness that the measure had not been adopted with a view to the ordinary autumn manœuvers, but for the purpose of defending the neutrality of the Principalities, and also of keeping in check the Bulgarians established in great numbers in Moldavia among whom much excitement prevailed.

I asked Prince Ghika whether, when he talked of maintaining the neutrality of the Principalities, he meant that his Government were prepared to resist the passage of a Russian army intended for the occupation of Bulgaria. He replied that if such an occupation were to be made with the sanction of the other Guaranteeing Powers, his Government would necessarily bow to their decision, but that if it was undertaken by Russia alone, they would be bound to resist it.

It may be assumed that the Roumanian Government could not regard a Russian occupation of Bulgaria without uneasiness, but it is not long since they declared that in the event of a war, they would side with that Power which promised them their independence, and notwithstanding Prince Ghika's language, the probability of a forcible resistance to the passage of a Russian army is little to be counted on.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 65.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1175.) *Therapia, October 20, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE had some conversation with General Ignatiew in reference to a Conference, and asked him what he knew of the place where it would be held, of the manner in which it would be constituted, and of the duties that would be assigned to it.

He said that your Lordship had proposed that it should be held at Constantinople, but that his own Government would prefer it being elsewhere, and he himself strongly shared the same opinion.

I said that I was not aware of your Lordship having brought forward Constantinople as the best place at which a Conference could be held, and I believed, on the contrary, that you had said you reserved your opinion upon the point.

There are, indeed, many objections to it, although some of those which I see may not be precisely such as General Ignatiew would view in the same light; for I would place in the first rank of them the great personal influence that he himself exercises over some of his colleagues, which upon any difference of opinion that might arise must place Her Majesty's Representative in a position of hopeless disadvantage.

If a Conference is to end by decisions which are to be imposed upon the Porte, sufficient violence will be done to the feelings of the Turks as an independent nation without the additional humiliation of their being concerted by foreign Representatives in their own capital.

General Ignatiew alluded to the proposed exclusion of a Turkish Representative from the Conference, and spoke of the possibility of overcoming the difficulties that he recognized in the adoption of a course so wholly contrary to international usage, by having a preliminary Conference between the Representatives, and when their projects were sufficiently matured, to have a full Conference, at which a Turkish Plenipotentiary should attend, rather, apparently, to be made acquainted with decisions that had been arrived at than to discuss measures of vital importance to the Empire.

I said that before a Conference was convoked I could understand there being meetings of the foreign Representatives such as we now frequently hold, at which a common course of action might be combined, but that to dignify such meetings by giving them the character of a Conference would be to introduce a new practice of proceeding that would be open to many objections.

The General answered that it would be necessary to have something more formal than such meetings as I had alluded to.

With regard to the duties of the Conference, he said that its object would be to define the administrative autonomy, to concert the measures for giving it effect, and to determine upon the guarantees for ensuring to the Christians their full execution, probably by means of some kind of international control.

The whole of this proposal appears open to the gravest possible objections. If it is thought necessary to define more closely than has already been done by your Lordship what is meant by the expression of administrative autonomy, it would be for the Cabinets to do so rather than for their representatives here, and an attempt to go further, by concerting the measures by which the principles adopted are to be practically carried out in the administration of Turkish provinces, would be little likely to prove successful.

Against the proposal to obtain a guarantee for the execution of those measures by an International Commission or any other direct foreign control, there are many, and, as appears to me, insuperable arguments to oppose.

The weakness of the Government, and the inability of their agents to withstand the influence of persons of local importance, are the cause of much of the maladministration of the provinces, and of the grievances of which the different classes have to complain, and the establishment of a foreign control in any shape, by creating an *imperium in imperio*, would be especially calculated to increase this evil to an extent which must render provincial government nearly impossible.

The Porte would be little likely to submit to a foreign control unless it were to be imposed by the threat of material pressure, and it is far from certain that the mere threat would be sufficient to extort its consent to a measure that will be regarded as fatally undermining its authority.

Although it is in the lot of the Christians that the Powers especially interest themselves, it is the whole administration that requires reform, and harmony between the two races will not be promoted by placing one of them under foreign guardianship, while the other has to rely upon the Turkish officials.

It may, however, be practicable to obtain the guarantee that is required for the execution of the promised reforms in a form less open to objection.

There is reason to believe the new Sovereign to be sincere in his wish to inaugurate a new state of things, and his sincerity might be tested without putting the administration of his Empire under foreign control.

When the Powers bound themselves by the IXth Article of the Treaty of Paris not to interfere individually or collectively between the Sultan and his subjects, or in the internal administration of the country, they took the engagement on the faith of promises which have notoriously not been fulfilled by the other contracting party.

We seem therefore to have an undoubted right formally to intimate to the Porte that we shall not hold ourselves bound to abstain from interference till the reforms promised by the Hatt Houmayoun are fully carried out.

Little beyond the *bonâ fide* execution of that proclamation is required, and upon it we can fairly insist; but I am convinced that if we attempt ourselves to propose the measures by which it is to be effected, or directly to superintend the application of them, we shall enter upon a course which can only lead to disappointment to those who desire the real progress of the Empire.

Russia having formerly pretended to a right of protection over certain subjects of the Sultan, one of the principal benefits obtained by the Treaty of Paris was the adoption of the principle that they were no longer to look for foreign support or interference in their behalf, and I cannot believe it to be politic or desirable that this principle should be abandoned.

It might, as I have said, be partially suspended—if possible for a term fixed beforehand, to give time for the Porte to put into practical execution the measures which have been promised for securing equality to all races; but, if the principle of European interference is once admitted, there can be no doubt which of the Powers will be able to turn it to its own account, nor of the trouble into which it will ultimately lead us.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 66.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1176.) *Therapia, October 21, 1876.*

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 639 inclosing the copy of Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield's report of his reception by Prince Charles, and asking how the question respecting the title of Roumania now stands, I have to express my regret that, under the pressure of business, I omitted to report to your Lordship that Safvet Pasha had informed me as well as the Roumanian Agent that the Porte had decided to recognise the title.

I telegraphed this resolution to Colonel Mansfield in the following words, which ought, at the same time, to have been transmitted to your Lordship:—

"The title of Roumania may be regarded as conceded by the Porte."

There has, however, been no official announcement of this decision, which, as it involves a change in the designation assigned by the Treaties to the United Principalities, the Porte will probably, as it has frequently stated, think it necessary to notify to the other contracting Powers for their concurrence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 67.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1177.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 21, 1876.*

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 626 I have the honour to inform you that the 200 irregular Circassian cavalry, reported by me as having been sent to Philippopolis, were not intended for service in that district, and were immediately forwarded to Nisch.

This irregular cavalry is stated to be extremely useful as "éclaireurs."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 68.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1181.) *Therapia, October 21, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAD a long conversation this morning with the Grand Vizier about the punishment of the persons concerned in the cruelties in Bulgaria.

His Highness, as on previous occasions, attempted to excuse the Porte on the ground of the ignorance in which it had been left of what had taken place, and of the conduct of those implicated.

I said it was impossible for me to accept any such excuse.

Nobody had asked that punishments should be inflicted without proper inquiry, but months had elapsed since persons had been pointed out as having been guilty of the most frightful excesses, and still we found them—as, for instance, in the case of Chefket Pasha—retained in posts of honour, without a step being taken to ascertain his guilt or to establish his innocence.

As long as the Porte continued to show this indifference, it must be looked upon as countenancing his misdeeds.

I said that Mr. Baring's reports showed that the Commission, in conducting its inquiry, were desirous of favouring the accused rather than of eliciting the truth, but his Highness might be sure that, unless that investigation was conducted with impartial strictness, there would be no modification in the unanimous judgment passed by Europe upon the conduct of the Porte.

The Grand Vizier said that, in consequence of the facts elicited by the Commission, several fresh arrests had been made of persons connected with the tragedy of Batak, and they would be dealt with as they deserved.

Although his language was not satisfactory, I hope that my observations may not be without some effect.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 69.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1182.) *Therapia, October 20, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, copies of three further reports from Mr. Baring, two of them respecting the proceedings of the Commission of Inquiry at Philippopoli, and one reporting a case of outrage which occurred in May at the village of Wradje.

I likewise inclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Marsh, an American Missionary, respecting the state of things in the villages in the neighbourhood of Yanboli. On the receipt of this letter, I communicated its substance to Safvet Pasha, with a request that measures should be taken for the security of this district during the approaching festival of Bairam, and his Excellency has assured me that troops were at once forwarded there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, October 12, 1876.

Sir,

ON the 7th instant I had the honour to inform your Excellency by telegraph, that Achmet Agha and Tossun Bey were here under arrest. They have both been examined, but the case of the former is far further advanced than that of the latter, as a number of witnesses from Batak and the neighbourhood have been under examination, while as yet only a few regular depositions have been taken from the inhabitants of Dervent.

The other persons who have been arrested for their connection with the Batak affair are Alish Pehlivan of Bania, Achmet Tchaousch of Kara Boulak, Achmet

Tchaousch of Dorkovo, and Hafouz Effendi of Rakitovo. Orders also have been sent to arrest the son of Achmet Agha, who is now somewhere in the district of Drama, in the vilayet of Salonica, and Bektach Metto of Rakitovo.

Muhammed Agha, the chief of the Darkovo Bashi-Bazouks, is in Servia.

Evidence has been given that the son of Achmet Agha collected 500 inhabitants of Batak of both sexes, promised them protection and made them all sit down. The Bashi-Bazouks then surrounded them, and Mollah Ali, Achmet's son, calling up the father of one of the witnesses (Basil), made him lay his head on a log of wood and exclaiming "Bismillah" decapitated him; others were killed in the same way, and in short, out of the 500 only 9 or 10 escaped. The two witnesses of this affair owe their safety to their having bribed some Bashi-Bazouks to protect them. One of them offered his field, his cattle, and even himself in exchange for his life.

Van Oglou Yorgui deposed that he put himself under the protection of one Abdi Tchaousch of Darkovo, who took him to his house and kept him there all night. The following day the two returned to Batak to look for witness's family, and found his wife and brother. As they were going away, Bektach Metto rushed up, killed the brother, and was only prevented from killing witness by Abdi's intervention.

Bektach Metto is also said to have rolled up his sleeves, put on an apron to prevent his being spotted with blood, and yataghan in hand, to have gone into the Church and butchered numbers of people.

Alich Pehlivan, Achmet Tchaousch of Dorkovo, and Hafouz, were all leaders of Bashi-Bazouks, but as yet there is no direct evidence of their having committed any particular act for which they could be condemned. As leaders, however, they must be held more or less responsible for the acts of their men.

Achmet Tchaousch, of Kara Boulak, was examined for the first time to-day, but till his case is further advanced it would be useless for me to give an opinion on it.

Achmet Agha's line of defence is that he had no power to restrain the Bashi-Bazouks; that at one moment they threatened to kill him; and that as soon as the Bulgarians laid down their arms he did all in his power to protect them. He had orders from the authorities at Bazardjik to send them to that place; he consequently sent 250 men under Achmet Tchaoush of Kara-Boulak with orders to go to Bazardjik, and two days afterwards he himself set out with 250 more.

When Achmet Tchaousch arrived at Yeni Mahalle the Mussulmans insisted on his stopping at Batak, which was in a state of insurrection; and Achmet Agha himself, when near Batak, met some insurgents, and consequently gave up the idea of going to Bazardjik.

He was then joined by men from Nevrokop.

Shortly after he had taken up his position the insurgents fired and killed three of his men.

Then 300 men from the district of Tchipin arrived and attacked, and took some of the insurgent fortifications without firing a shot.

The village was then surrounded.

The next morning Achmet Agha sent a man to parley with the insurgents, who, however, shot him down.

Two hours afterwards Said Effendi of Adrianople came out to treat on the part of the Bulgarians, and Achmet told him that if the latter would lay down their arms no harm would be done them.

Said carried this message to the village and returned to Achmet, in company with a Bulgarian, to say that the villagers refused to surrender.

The Bashi-Bazouks then drew nearer to the village, and the inhabitants opened fire, killing and wounding seven Turks.

Achmet advised his men to retreat, which they refused to do, and on the contrary entered the village.

Fighting went on all night, and in the morning Achmet heard that the Bulgarians wished to surrender; he accordingly proceeded to the church and took the survivors under his protection. His losses amounted to about fifty men.

This is, shortly, Ahmet Agha's account of the affair. His examination was very skilfully conducted by Ekiades Bey, who was, I regret to say, frequently interrupted by the Mussulman Members, to such an extent, that at one moment he refused to proceed.

He is the only member of the Commission who really knows how to examine, the others are utterly inexperienced, with the exception of Selim Effendi, who, however, does not take a very active part in the proceedings.

There are many discrepancies and contradictions in Achmet Agha's deposition,

which I will point out when I have the honour of forwarding the whole of the evidence to your Excellency, which is of course of considerable length.

On the whole, the depositions of the other Bashi-Bazouk leaders tend to show that he was the recognized head of the movement.

A letter has been found on Alish Pehlivan, written from Constantinople, telling him to be on his guard as a Commission had started to inquire into matters, two of its members being the "Ginours," who had visited Bulgaria before, meaning Yovantcho Effendi and Blacque Bey.

The case against Achmet Agha, as it proceeds, is getting considerably stronger, and if the inquiry is only properly conducted he should, I think, be convicted; but there will be difficulty in proving the graver charge of murder against some of the others.

If, however, the Commission only goes the right way to work about it, I cannot but think, that all these men might easily be convicted of pillage. Their houses should be thoroughly searched by trustworthy persons; I am told that this is being done, but, as yet, I have not heard the result.

Many more women escaped from the Batak massacre than men; comparatively few of the latter were spared, and those that did get away owe their safety to flight, or to their having concealed themselves. The consequence is, that it is difficult to procure male evidence respecting the acts of individuals; but if only the women were examined, I feel sure that much important evidence might be obtained. Since I have been here the Commission has not examined a single woman from Batak, though they tell me they questioned several while there. I have now suggested that two women, whose names I have discovered, and who ought to be able to give evidence respecting the latter portion of the massacre, should be sent for.

The fact is, that the inquiry into the Batak affair should have been held not here, but at Peshtera. It is hard upon the witnesses to bring them down here all the way from their village, and to keep them here for an indefinite time; and the proceedings of the Commission, also, are constantly being delayed by their having to send all the way to Batak for a witness, or for a piece of information.

Tossoun Bey's house was ordered to be searched a few days ago. This important measure has been delayed much too long.

I have, &c,
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, October 13, 1876.

Sir,

A FEW days ago a Bulgarian named Naiden Oglu Sigor, cashier to Messrs. Gueichoglou and Company of this town, came to me and made a deposition to the following effect, which, though it has reference to events long past, I think it my duty to report to your Excellency.

On the $\frac{18}{30}$th May Mussur Bey, of Wradje, in the district of Widdin, Sandjak of Rustchuk, collected a number of Circassians and other irregulars and marched against a body of 214 insurgents, who had crossed over from Wallachia.

After having defeated this band, Mussur Bey returned and pillaged the monasteries of Archangelos, Panayin, and Agios Tovanios, situated at about two hours distance from Wradje, and killed several priests.

On his arrival at Wradje he pillaged the churches of Agie Nicola, Vouzni Semio, and Sophia, and about 100 private houses, and also broke open and emptied the communal chest.

After committing these acts of pillage, the Bashi-Bazouks attacked the inhabitants; Mussur Bey himself fired on and severely wounded a woman, and his men massacred twenty persons and wounded about as many more. Among the killed the deponent cited the names of Kossi (jeweller), Paltzo (merchant), Petko (baker), and the son of Petko, Sophiali.

The body of Pope Kooto, superior of the church of Vouzni Semio, was mutilated.

Mussur Bey then gave orders that the town should be burnt, but the timely arrival of 600 soldiers, sent by Colonel Hassan Bey to protect the place, prevented him from carrying out his design.

The troops drove the irregulars out of the town, and the inhabitants thought their miseries were at an end.

They soon found out their mistake, for two days afterwards Hassan Bey arrived with three battalions of regular troops, and called upon the inhabitants to give up their arms, which they immediately did.

Hassan Bey, the Kaimakam and the Cadi, then sent for the richest men of the town, namely, the three brothers Petchimiak, the two brothers Aukoff, the Archimandrite, Pope Nikoldjo, the two brothers Kristingiak Oglou, Bosnak Dimitri, Paolo Yovantcho Nikolaki, and the deponent, and demanded from each sums varying from 200 to 500 Turkish pounds.

Every single man refusing to pay, Hassan Bey had them imprisoned, together with a number of other citizens, in all about 150, who were plundered of everything they had about them by a Circassian gaoler, who also illtreated them continually for four days.

After this some of the captives being no longer able to support their sufferings paid the required bribes and were released. Among this number were Yorgui Anton, Yovantcho Mallio and Kostaki Dimitri.

On the $\frac{23\text{ May}}{4\text{ June}}$ 64 prisoners were taken out, their hands tied and sent to Berkowska, eight hours from Wradje, where they spent two nights. From Berkowska they went barefoot to Widdin, two men dying on the journey.

At Widdin they were imprisoned for 34 days in a damp dungeon. At first they were confined there day and night, but after some time the Greek doctor attached to the prison got leave for them to pass their days out of this horrible place; at night, however, they were invariably shut up there. Their sufferings during this period were intense, water was only supplied to them once a day, and the half-baked bread served out was scarcely eatable; they were heavily chained, and the prison attendants beat them cruelly every hour of the day. Many fell ill and two died.

During their imprisonment at Widdin they were joined by 31 of those who had originally been their fellow-prisoners at Wradje; the latter had set out 33 in number, but two of them named Krisko and Andro had died on the way.

Only 35 out of the whole number of prisoners were ever examined before a Tribunal.

After 34 days' imprisonment 32 prisoners were marched in chains to Rustchuk, where they were kept in confinement a month, and then back again to Widdin, at which place they were released and allowed to return to Wradje, seven persons dying of fatigue, &c., soon after their arrival.

I report this case to your Excellency, not knowing whether Mr. Consul Reade has already done so or not, but it shows that a Committee of Inquiry is needed north of the Balkans, just as much as in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 3 in No. 69.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, October 15, 1876.

Sir,

YESTERDAY the Commission examined Latif Effendi of Nevrokop, who had been arrested as a leader of Bashi-Bazouks at Batak; as, however, it was clearly proved that he had no connection with the atrocities he was dismissed.

The remainder of the day was occupied in examining a zaptié who was present at the attack on Dervent.

To-day several Turks and Christians were examined respecting the same affair, but they could not or would not give any real information respecting it.

I hear that the Turks of Carlowo and of the neighbourhood are greatly irritated at the arrest of Tossoun Bey, and threaten to wreak their vengeance on the Christians should he be condemned. The authorities would certainly do well to send a few troops there to keep order.

It cannot be doubted that great bitterness of feeling has been excited among the Mussulmans by the late arrests, and even here the Turks threaten a rising should Ahmed and Tossoun not be released.

About 120 cavalry arrived a few days ago from Adrianople, and will be distributed about the country; about four times that number are required; and now that no

armistice of five months appears to have been agreed to, the Porte could, without any difficulty, bring as many troops as it liked from Nisch. Their presence would overawe the Mussulmans and reassure the Christians, who at present think themselves by no means safe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Inclosure 4 in No. 69.

The Rev. G. Marsh to Sir H. Elliot.

Stamboul, October 14, 1876.

Sir,

THE Executive Central Relief Committee for Bulgaria have requested me, one of the American missionaries at Eski-Zaghra, to act for them in behalf of the sufferers in Boyadjik. I have been engaged in this work for the past two weeks. This has given me an opportunity to learn in detail the condition of affairs in Sleven, Yamboul, and the villages around.

When I began this service, I found that the Turks were threatening the Christians with massacre. The Christians at first judged it imprudent that anything be done for Boyajik, lest this should become the occasion of fresh attacks on the part of the Turks. I also found that robberies by Circassians, Gypsies, and Turks were prevailing in many of the villages. Even at that time a number of men in Yamboul would have been glad to pay my expenses if I would have come to represent these affairs at Constantinople. But I was on my way to distribute aid in Boyajik and did not consider the danger very imminent. Last Monday I was again in Yamboul, and Tuesday in Sleven. I was surprised to see how the alarm had increased in one week. The first Bulgarians in Sleven told me, with bated breath, that they were in very great fear. They told me that it was well understood that the Turks had held a meeting in one of the mosques, and declared that they would not accept the proposals of the Powers. They say that they will kill all the Christians. The time set for this rising is at Bairam. They threaten on the streets, in the shops, and, I am told on good authority, even in the Medjliss, that they will make a general slaughter. A few of the first Bulgarians in the city begged me to come with all haste, and make known these facts to those who have power to help them. I am here at this their most urgent entreaty and at their expense.

A Bulgarian ecclesiastic had been chosen and sent to Boyajik to help me in distributing aid. As he returned to Sleven Sunday morning, he stopped at a number of the villages on the way. He says that the people told him with tears that the Turks were all threatening to kill them, and they begged him for protection. I can say, too, that wherever I converse with the villagers they ask me, "What is going to happen? Are they going to kill us?"

I could not refuse to listen to the prayers of those who are most sober, and best understand the true condition of affairs. That I might know positively the feelings in other cities, and learn of the welfare of my family before coming here, I travelled a distance of twenty-five hours in a little more than that time, to Yamboul, Boyajik, Yeni Zaghra, Eski Zaghra, and returned for the train at Yeni Zaghra. At Yamboul I called a few reliable men, and they told me that the alarm was such that the people could not attend to their business. As soon as it was known that I was in the city, some men from the middle class came and begged me to do something for their safety. One man told me that he had thought of going with his family to Adrianople. The same rumours prevail at Eski Zaghra, but I do not think that the fear is as great.

In the minds of those for whom I come, this is a question of life and death. I would also add, at the request of those who send me, that the villagers need and deserve immediate protection from robbery, which is constantly occurring. At a village less than an hour from Boyajik two Gypsies came at night, a short time ago, and stole eleven horses from a Bulgarian. In Court the Bulgarian said, "If I had had a single gun, I would not have given them up; but what could I do?" You doubtless know, Sir, that from Yamboul towards the Black Sea there are many Circassians. These men and others are making a regular business of plundering. The poor villagers come into the cities and ask what to do. Every night their cattle, horses, and sheep are being driven off; the rich men are assaulted, and life or money must be yielded. When they sell their grain in the city they are afraid to carry their money home. I have traced up these reports till I am confident that they

are not idle tales. The state of things assumes a most serious aspect. What is the use of distributing aid if the plunderer is to be watching his chance to seize it.

If my words seem excited they simply depict truthfully the excited, alarmed state of feeling in those regions. The dread is increasing, and if not checked is likely soon to be quite equal to that which the people suffered last spring.

Allow me now to state my own views of the situation. The Pasha and Judge in Sleven are kindly disposed towards the Christians. But they are not supported at all by the mass of their people. The Pasha acknowledges that he cannot govern as he wishes. I feel that in both Sleven and Yamboul there really is no Government. I am told that the soldiers in Sleven number 600, besides 400 reserves, workmen in the Government factory. But I, myself, have seen and experienced their lawlessness. The city would be safer without them. There is both in Sleven and Yamboul a great number of Turks, Circassians, and Gypsies who are ready for any deeds, without regard to consequences. If some one would only strike the first blow, I do not believe that there is any power in either city which could prevent fearful massacres and general plunder. It seems to me to be most dangerous and absolutely criminal to allow the mass of the Turks in these places to be threatening slaughter, plunder, and violence. In behalf of these unarmed, helpless, and terrified people, I beg your Excellency to take into immediate consideration their circumstances and the best means to help them.

Allow me to assure you of their gratitude for any aid, and believe me, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE D. MARSH.

No. 70.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1183.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 22, 1876.

ONE of the guarantees contemplated by the Russian Government for the arrangements for the insurgent provinces, appears to be the recognition to the Embassies of the right of selecting the Governors-General, or of controlling the choice made by the Porte.

In speaking on this subject with General Ignatiew, I said that I should be very sorry to take on myself to recommend any one as a Governor-General, and to assume the responsibility for the manner in which he carried on the administration.

In forming our opinions of the qualifications of these functionaries we are entirely dependent upon the reports of our respective Consular Agents, who are very apt not to agree in their appreciation of them.

I know also by experience that a Governor who had been very favourably regarded by our own Consul at one place, on being transferred to another post was frequently reported on in an entirely different manner by our Agent there.

I agreed with General Ignatiew that it would be an advantage to have the Governors named for a fixed period, and I would gladly see them given a greater authority over their own subordinates; but the direct control of the Embassies over their selection is not desirable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 71.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1190.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 24, 1876.

THERE may, perhaps, be grounds for believing that Russia has no fixed plan for going to war with Turkey, but there can at least be no doubt of her determination not to lose the present opportunity of fatally weakening her.

This object will be attained sufficiently for her purpose if special privileges, supported by a European guarantee or control, are secured for the revolted Slav Provinces, while the Greeks who had remained quiet in spite of encouragements and warnings that they would obtain nothing unless they moved, are left in an inferior position, and while at the same time the autonomy expected for the former, as it appears to be understood by the Russians,

would render the Turkish Administration so powerless as before long to lead to a state of anarchy, making further foreign interference necessary.

While this, however, is likely to be the result of the acquiescence by the Porte in all the demands put forward by Russia, unless they can be toned down by the influence of other Powers, a direct refusal of them by the Porte would be followed by effects still more disastrous.

Russia appears to have come to the conclusion that Turkey is finally abandoned by all other Powers, and that she may safely exact what conditions she pleases under a threat of a hostile occupation in the event of a refusal.

She knows full well that Turkey, unaided, is utterly incapable of withstanding any attack from her, either on the European or Asiatic frontier, and in the event of deciding on an occupation of Bulgaria she would endeavour to tranquillize the other Powers by a profusion of professions of disinterestedness and of a determination to confine her operations to the districts where the Christians have lately suffered from the Turks, and where a foreign force is assumed to be necessary for their protection.

The Turks, although according to the best military authorities they could not effectually defend either the line of the Danube or that of the Balkans, would not abandon the country without an attempt to expel the invaders, who might find themselves almost obliged to push forward on Constantinople itself.

If the abstention of Austria can be counted upon there is reason to believe that such an operation could be successfully carried out.

It would be accompanied by insurrectionary movements in many parts of the Empire, and the Russians once established here their voluntary withdrawal cannot be calculated upon, and it is not now too soon for other Powers to consider what measures may be necessary to guard against a contingency which may not be far off, and which must affect their vital interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 72.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1191.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 24, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a letter from Mr. Baring, applying for the allowance of 100*l.* a year for his knowledge of Turkish.

I have much pleasure in recommending Mr. Baring's application to your Lordship's favourable consideration, and in stating that his knowledge of the language is sufficient for ordinary colloquial purposes, and that it has proved of the greatest value in the performance of the duties on which he has lately been employed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Therapia, October 22, 1876.*

BY Article IX of the Regulations for Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service, a special allowance of 100*l.* a year is granted to any Secretary who may possess a competent colloquial knowledge of Turkish.

As I have acquired a knowledge of that language sufficient for ordinary colloquial purposes, I beg respectfully to request your Excellency to have the goodness to submit the fact to the Earl of Derby, in order that his Lordship may, if he thinks fit, grant me the above allowance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 73.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1194.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 25, 1876.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a report from Mr. Sandison, respecting the conspiracy against the Government.

It is said that, besides the persons already arrested, others of higher position and greater importance are also implicated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Therapia, October 23, 1876.*

THE persons arrested by the police in connection with a supposed conspiracy against the existing Ministry and the Sultan, do not amount to more than ten altogether.

Five of these, namely, two Cazaskiers (superior Judges), Rumiz Pasha, Kiamil Bey, and a certain Riza Bey, who is known to be closely connected with Mahmoud Pasha, ex-Grand Vizier, being persons of high rank, have all been degraded, and the two Cazaskiers already sent into exile. The remaining eight are still kept here, and would probably have to share the same fate.

The conspirators being extreme fanatics, opposed to liberal reforms, and bent upon carrying on the present war, had, it is said, combined to seize upon the Prophet's standard on the first day of Bairam, and to excite the public feeling and fanaticism against the Sultan and his leading Ministers, namely, Mehemet Ruschdi, Midhat, and Sulvet, whom they had marked out for destruction. The Sultan they meant to depose, and proclaim Yusuf Izzeddin as his successor.

Though the Grand Vizier, as your Excellency will remember, represented the matter in a much less important light, there is sufficient evidence, from all I hear, to show that the affair had in reality a political character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 74.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1195.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 25, 1876.*

I RECEIVED this morning your Lordship's yesterday's telegram upon Mr. Baring's Report respecting the Commission sitting under Sadoullah Bey, and I shall communicate your remarks to the Porte.

My own representations on the manner in which the Commission is conducting its proceedings have been very frequent, and as energetic as I could make them, but they will be strengthened by this expression of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government.

I do not, however, anticipate that the Commission will be as barren of result as your Lordship appears to apprehend.

The trial of Achmet Aga has made much progress, and Mr. Baring tells me that he expects him to be found guilty when the case against Tossoun Bey will be proceeded with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 75.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1196.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 25, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1182 of the 20th instant, inclosing a letter respecting the critical condition of affairs in the Yamboli district, I have the honour to

state that, on the 21st instant, I received a telegram from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis reporting disturbances with loss of life in that neighbourhood. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom I at once communicated, had however received no information of anything of the kind, and the report subsequently proved to have been unfounded. Mr. Dupuis, telegraphing on the 23rd that no disturbances of any importance had occurred, and Mr. Calvert stating on the next day that the Bairam had passed off quietly everywhere.

Safvet Pasha's assurances to me that troops had been despatched to the places where disorders were thought possible were also confirmed by Mr. Calvert in a despatch, dated the 20th, who wrote, that although the authorities did not apprehend further disturbances, they had nevertheless increased their precautions for the preservation of peace during the Bairam, by sending patrols of cavalry to keep an eye on the villages, and marching troops incessantly through the streets of the towns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 76.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1199.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 25, 1876.*

ALTHOUGH there is nothing in the regulations about the admission of ships-of-war to the Bosphorus that defines the number which might be regarded as being attached to the Embassies, I have been particularly careful that there should, at no time, be more than two of Her Majesty's ships here at the same time.

In case of its being convenient that a third vessel should temporarily come up, it may be as well to put upon record that twice within the last three weeks there have been three Russian vessels lying before their Embassy at Buyukdéré, and that one of them, the Imperial yacht "Livadia," is of a length much in excess of that which was agreed to as the limit for vessels to be admitted.

She is in no sense a man-of-war, and I see nothing objectionable in her coming here, and I only mention the fact in case comments should be made if Her Majesty's ship "Helicon," or some other unarmed vessel, should come up while we have two others here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 77.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1202.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a further Report from Sir Arnold Kemball from the seat of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters, Camp before Alexinatz, October 16, 1876.*

FROM the subjoined three telegrams (A, B, and C), bearing date subsequent to my despatch of October 9, your Excellency will have learnt that during the past week this army has continued to act entirely on the defensive. On two several occasions the attack which had been ordered on the enemy's position in our rear has been suspended at the last moment, owing to the unwillingness of the Serdar Ekrem, Abdul Kerim Pasha, to undertake offensive operations, such as, in their result, might prejudice the course of negotiations still pending at Constantinople.

On Wednesday, the 11th instant, a telegram was received by his Excellency from the Porte of the same tenor as that transmitted to me by your Excellency on the 14th instant.

It could not, of course, include any notice of the subsequent action of the allied Powers in the matter of supporting at Belgrade the Porte's proposal for a prolonged armistice (until March), but the mention it made of the designs of Russia on the eastern frontier of Turkey, and in the direction of Batoum, had already foreshadowed the opposition of that country to a policy of peace.

Between 8 and 9 o'clock on the night of Saturday, the 14th instant, the Servians again opened a heavy fire of musketry, which they sustained for three-quarters of an hour from the right bank of the Morava in the direction of the trestle-bridge. The object of such useless demonstration is not very intelligible, unless it be to announce to Belgrade the occurrence of Turkish attacks successfully repelled; whereas, not only are the Turks inactive, but they do not even respond to the fire of the Servian infantry on such occasions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

Telegram (A).

Monday, 1 P.M.

Please let arrangement stand. Your French telegrams never reached me under two days; mine to you were doubtless as tardy. Please ask for repetition from camp of message; not understood.

Telegram (B).

Tuesday, 3 P.M.

Must I revert to old system of sending telegrams from Nish?

Movement yesterday mere reconnaissance: no results. Future plan operations turn Deligrad, after taking Krusewatz; referred to Constantinople.

Telegram (C).

Saturday, 1 P.M.

Nothing to report since Tuesday. Batteries exchange long shots occasionally. Proposed attack suspended pending negotiations Constantinople.

No. 78.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 1203.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 26, 1876.*

ADMIRAL HOBART returned here a few days ago after a four months' cruize with the Turkish squadron, excessively pleased with its success.

He had been above sixty days under steam with six ships without a single breakdown or accident of any kind, and as except himself there was not a single foreigner in the squadron either among officers or engineers, the result is very gratifying; and he speaks in high terms of both his officers and men, the latter having, he says, made extraordinary progress during the time they were out.

He does not consider that in the Turkish fleet there are above six vessels that can properly be counted among the fighting ships of the present day, but he considers that all these may be looked upon as thoroughly effective.

The Russian Embassy intimated to the Porte that it regarded Admiral Hobart's return here in the light of a menace.

His departure four months ago was looked upon in the same light.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 79.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 1204. Confidential.)

Therapia, October 26, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Belgian Minister mentioned to me a few days ago that his Consul at Salonica reports that there is at that place a regular organization for the propagation of news of massacres and outrages impending or already perpetrated, with the object of keeping up a feeling of uneasiness and mutual distrust between the two classes of the population.

He states that the principal promoters of this are the Austrian, Russian, and Greek Consuls, and Mr. Abbott, the brother of the late German Consul.

Mr. Blunt has frequently spoken of the reports in question being got up by intriguers, but has mentioned no one in particular, and at times when my colleagues here have been convinced that the state of Salonica was most alarming, he has always stated that there was no ground for apprehension.

I received a telegram from him yesterday to this effect.

The massacre of a number of Christians at Prisrend was reported ten days ago with such assurance as to be accepted as a fact at most of the Embassies, and probably telegraphed as such to many of their Governments, but it also proved to be an invention.

I have myself several times been misled by the credulity of some of our own Consular Agents, into making representations to the Porte about occurrences that never took place, or danger which did not exist, and some little soreness is felt at my having obtained orders for the Provincial Authorities in places where everything was quiet.

It is certain, however, that the lawlessness in many districts is very great, and that the means at the disposal of the authorities are inadequate to insure the maintenance of order, although, according to all the reports I have received, they appear to be doing their utmost, under stringent injunctions laid on them by the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 80.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 1205.)

Therapia, October 26, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Zohrab's despatch No. 72 of the 7th instant, of which he has forwarded a copy to your Lordship, proposing to send M. Majack to inquire into the state of the country about Van, Diarbekir, and Kharkoot, and in the neighbourhood of the Persian frontier, I have the honour to state that I have answered that I do not consider it advisable.

No inquiry is necessary to prove that the state of the district in question is as bad as possible, and at the request of the Armenian Patriarch I have been strongly pressing upon the Porte the urgency of adopting energetic measures for the protection of the people against the lawlessness of the Kourds, and also for replacing some of the District Governors, whose incapacity and corruption are notorious.

There had been a thought of British and Russian Delegates being sent with Turkish and Persian Commissioners to inquire into the circumstances of the incursions mutually complained of, and the dispatch of a person belonging to Her Majesty's Consulate would be certain at the present moment to be misunderstood and to awaken suspicion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 81.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 27. Political.)

Erzeroom, October 6, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit a copy of a letter I have received from the Reverend Mr. Barnum, American Missionary at Kharpoot, an extract from a letter

from the Reverend Mr. Allen of the same town, testifying to the energy and honesty of Hassan Boy, Mutessarif of Kharpoot, and of Roomi Effendi, Mutessarif of Argana Maaden.

I am not acquainted with these two officials, but I feel no doubt, that neither the Reverend Mr. Barnum, nor the Reverend Mr. Allen, would write in such terms of praise were the conduct of these officers not worthy of it.

As regards the Governor-General of Diarbekir, Ahmet Tefik Pasha, I have to state that from what I have heard of him from other sources, and from what I have been able to observe of his conduct at this distance, I believe the Government has made a very injudicious choice in selecting him for the administration of the fanatical province of Diarbekir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure 1 in No. 81.

The Rev. H. Barnum to Consul Zohrab.

Harpoot, September 14, 1876.

Sir,

IN reading of late in the London papers the debates in Parliament on Turkish affairs, I have been impressed with the strictness of the accountability to which the English Government holds its Consuls to report whatever pertains to the general welfare in these different districts. Harpoot being under your Consular jurisdiction we are ready to aid you in any way we can, though a visit from yourself for personal inspection would be most agreeable to all the members of our little circle.

It is not our custom to meddle in Turkish politics. We have not the time for it even if we had the inclination. It is only when the interests of humanity are involved that we venture to say anything.

I have been in Harpoot more than seventeen years, and, as my missionary language is Turkish, I have had more occasion to know about matters of local politics than I should otherwise have done.

The Harpoot district is a very populous one, perhaps the most so of any in Asiatic Turkey, and one peculiarly rich in its agricultural resources.

Since the Vilayet system was adopted, and Harpoot became dependent on Diarbekir, a few men have grown rich, but the masses have grown poor, and the resources of the district have diminished. Justice has been practically dead. Bribery and corruption were supreme here, and it soon became apparent that it was of little use to go to Diarbekir to rectify the wrongs of Harpoot.

Matters became so bad that the general feeling was one akin to despair.

Some months ago Harpoot was separated from Diabekir, and became in form a Vilayet, with Mutessarifliks dependent upon it, and reporting to Constantinople, although its name was not changed or its powers and resources enlarged. It is still a Mutessarifllik.

Hassan Bey was appointed as Governor. At first he declined to come unless it were made a complete Vilayet. Midhat Pasha persuaded him to come under the promise that matters should be arranged as he desired. He is a thoroughly honest man, courageous, energetic, prompt, and a rare administrator. I had supposed that this race of men had become extinct in Turkey.

Wherever I go, into the city or among the villages, the universal declaration among Christians and the better class of Moslems is that God sent Hassan Bey here, and for this peculiar crisis. Almost all the Christians say that if he had not been here during these past few months there would have been serious trouble; but he has become disheartened almost, because he is required as Mutessarif to perform the duties of a Vali, and he says that, unless this is made a Vilayet he shall resign.

This would be a public calamity, so far as one can see, scarcely second to an earthquake or a famine as matters now are. Old grievances and wrongs he has taken in hand with great energy, but unless he can follow them up there is danger that the future will be worse than the past.

In addition to these considerations, I feel bound to say in behalf of this little circle of Americans, who are glad to reckon themselves as belonging to your Consular jurisdiction, that our sense of personal security is greatly increased by the presence of Hassan Bey as Governor. He is ever on the alert to check the first systems of disorder, and he does not hesitate to be known as our friend.

The simple object of this communication is to put you in possession of the general facts of the case, which you could fully appreciate only from personal observation, so that, if consistent with your official duties, you might ask Sir Henry Elliot to suggest to the Grand Vizier that the interests of this part of the country would be greatly promoted by making this a Vilayet in reality, as it is in form. Hassan Bey says that the extra expense involved will be returned more than tenfold to the Treasury.

The general welfare of the district is one consideration, and the second is that, if this is not done, Hassan Bey will not remain here. He says that he is unwilling to remain where there is a great work to be done with his hands tied.

Of course I have no personal interest whatever in this matter, save what I suggested above, and I write wholly self-moved, without any suggestion from Hassan Bey or any other person. I write because I feel that a grand opportunity is presented for relieving a much-suffering and a long-suffering province—an opportunity which, if neglected, may be fraught with disaster.

I suppose from your former residence in Diarbekir you must know something of Argani Maaden, or Boken Maaden as it is generally called. It is now a Muttessariflik, dependent upon Harpoot. The present Muttessarif, Roomi Effendi, has been in Maaden a couple of years as Kaimakam. He is as honest as Hassan Bey, intelligent, and of the average executive ability, though by no means the equal of Hassan Bey in the last particular. I doubt if the Turkish Cabinet has a man who, in all respects, is very much the superior of Hassan Bey. I am glad to be able to commend Roomi Effendi, along with Hassan Bey, to you for a favourable report.

It must be an agreeable duty to his Excellency the Ambassador, when he has so much to complain of, to be able to commend any of the servants of the Porte.

Roomi Effendi is doing fine work, and has maintained a perfectly irreproachable character in the midst of peculiar difficulties and temptations. If the Government could lay hold of a few such men, and give them its confidence and universal support, they would do more for Turkey than fleets and armies. I need not say to a man who has been so long in the public service as yourself, that the bane of Turkey has been her dishonest officials. The Vali of Diarbekir is as conspicuous for the taking of bribes, as Hassan Bey and Roomi Effendi were for rejecting them.

In closing, allow me to express the gratification which is felt by every member of the Eastern Turkey Mission that the Consular office for this part of the country is filled by a person of so high a character and worth as yourself.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) H. BARNUM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 81.

The Rev. — Allen to Consul Zohrab

(Extract.) *Harpoot, September* 15, 1876.

I am happy to be able to approve and second the request of my associate Mr. Barnum, which he forwards you by to-day's mail.

Where an honest official can be found, by all means such an one, it seems to me, should be sustained and encouraged.

Whether enough such men can be found to rule the country seems to me a very doubtful question, but I believe there are some Turkish officials who really desire to rule with justice.

These are not, however, always sustained by the Central Government: for instance, Aziz Pasha, in the district of Philippopolis, who had some idea of what was right and just and necessary, at the beginning of the troubles in Bulgaria, was summarily removed, no doubt, at the instigation of the Turkish Beys of that region. You know something of the chapter of horrors which followed there. I believe the Turks are the same here as there, and I know of nothing to prevent similar atrocities here, when even there shall be any little spark of contention kindled between Turks and Christians, except a bold honest ruler, who will repress disorder promptly and deal impartially with both parties.

No. 82.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 28. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, October* 6, 1876.

I REPORTED, in my despatch No. 22 of the 17th September, that the Persians had made prisoners of, and carried into Persia, a captain and eight men of the Turkish army.

Samih Pasha has informed me that in the skirmish which then took place, a soldier was killed, and that the Persians cut off the dead man's ears and cut out his tongue, and carried them away as trophies. The officer, on being taken over the frontier, was stripped naked, a rope was fastened round his neck, and, in this condition, he was led through the country to the town of Khoi, where he was publicly exhibited.

I have also heard, from a very good source, that the Persians, in their late raids, carefully abstained from molesting any of the Christian villages they passed by, and no Christian who came in their way was harmed. It was clear, my informant said, that the attacks were directed against the Turks, and it was evident, by their conduct, that the Persians intended it should be known that the Turks alone were regarded as enemies by them.

On the frontier the troops of Turkey and Persia are in very close proximity, and any small accident may now give rise to serious consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 83.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 29. Political.)
My Lord, *Erzeroum, October* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, copy of a despatch I have addressed to his Excellency, Sir Henry Elliot, reporting the arrival of Russian reinforcements on the frontier and the calling to arms of all the classes of military reserves of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Consul Zohrab to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October* 11, 1876.

I HAVE telegraphed to your Excellency, as follows:

"Russian frontier forces augmented by about 10,000 cavalry, much anxiety here; after military council and communication with Capital, orders issued, call out all military reserves."

It appears that a few days since the greater portion of the Russian troops in the neighbourhood of Gamiri were secretly withdrawn, but their tents were left standing. Whither they went was not known here, and Samih Pasha was rather anxious as to the meaning of this manœuvre. Suspense, however, was removed, for they soon returned to their camp.

Information has also reached this, that a further force of about 10,000 cavalry had arrived on the frontier, Samih Pasha appears to have considered this concentration of Russians as a menace.

The Capital was communicated with, Councils were held here, and the result is, that all the military reserves of this province are called to arms.

In this town the most wild rumours are circulating and much uneasiness is felt. The general impression is that Turkey is on the eve of war with Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 84.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 30. Political.)

Erzeroom, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, proposing that Mr. Antoine Magak, the Interpreter attached to this Consulate, be sent to investigate and report on the condition of the Christians in Koordistan, and on the late disturbances on the Turco-Persian frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Consul Zohrab to Sir H. Elliot.

Erzeroom, October 7, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE telegraphed to your Excellency in cypher as follows:—

"Request authority send immediately Interpreter to Van, Persian frontier, Nestorians, Diarbekir, Kharpoot, investigate events, condition Christians; oppression reported. Consenting, beg Firman."

As I stated in my despatch yesterday, acts of great oppression are constantly being reported to me, but all these reports are denied by the district authorities when interrogated by Samih Pasha.

Mar Shamoon, the Patriarch of the Nestorians, informs me by letter that the Kaimakam of Julamerg in the Mutessariflik of Van, systematically oppresses the Christians and incites the Mussulmans to attack Christian villages. From Van I hear that a condition of war exists on the Persian frontier, and the province is in a state of revolt, that the Koords attack and plunder the Christian villages with impunity. In the districts of Moorsh and Bitlis, the Christians have been reduced to such a state of poverty, and are so maltreated, that numbers of them are ready to embrace Islamism, as the only means of escape from a position which degrades them to the condition of wild beasts. The Christians of Ghever, Kulp, Khiani, Hekiari, Bashkaleh and other districts are equally badly off.

An army doctor who has just arrived from Diarbekir tells me that in the province of Diarbekir the Christians meet with no mercy from the Mussulmans, who pillage, murder, outrage women and girls at their will; that appeals to the authorities are useless, as the authorities will only listen to those who can pay, and consequently the law is on the side of robbers, murderers, and ravishers.

There may be exaggeration in these reports, but that they are made on very solid foundation of fact I have not the least doubt; for I have seen quite enough of oppression and fanaticism in Erzeroom to make me come to the conclusion that in the districts where Consuls are not present, and where, consequently, Mussulman officials and Mussulman populations are free to act as they please, every kind of cruelty is exercised towards the Christians. Outrage of Christian women and girls has become so common in the country inhabited by Koords, while the complaints of the Christians against their acts have been so systematically neglected, that they have ceased to appeal to the authorities, and, to escape the consequences which refusal to gratify the lusts of their oppressors would entail, submit in silence to the disgrace and degradation of their wives and daughters.

Such is the nature of the reports I receive, but as I believe Her Majesty's Government would wish to have them verified beyond doubt, I have taken the liberty to suggest my sending Mr. Magak on a tour of inspection.

Mr. Magak has often been employed on such missions; he is, therefore, well acquainted with the duties such a service requires, and his knowledge of the country and of the languages gives him facilities for inquiry and verification which few possess.

The position of affairs on the Turco-Persian frontier appears critical, and as the Turks and Persians accuse each other of having fomented disorder and cast on each other the responsibility of any future serious consequence, I venture to express the belief that an investigation, by an impartial person, of the causes which have led to

the present disordered state of the frontier would be of importance. Mr. Magak would undertake this duty also.

I cannot estimate exactly the cost of the journey, but it would be much less expensive than if I went on the tour, as Mr. Magak would not require the attendants and escort which my position would oblige me to employ. I expect 2*l.* a-day will pay every expense.

I propose that Mr. Magak visits Moosh, Bitlis, Van, Ghever, the patriarch of the Nestorians, Tayari, Khoob, Kulp, Khiani, Bohtan, Seerd, Maaden, Diarbekir, Kharpoot, Sivas Dersim, and Erzergian.

Should your Excellency consent to this journey being made, I would beg to be furnished with a firman or vizirial letter from the Porte, directing the different authorities to afford every protection and assistance to Mr. Magak.

Subject to your Excellency's approval, Mr. Magak will be instructed to report to me, and, if necessary, telegraph as he proceeds on his journey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 85.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 31. Political.)

Erzeroom, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that considerable activity is shown by the military authorities here in sending troops to the fortified positions along the Turco-Russian frontier.

Several heavy guns, and ammunition in large quantities, were despatched to Kars during the summer, but during the past month greater activity has been displayed, and Krupp guns and troops are hastened on to the front.

It is clear that the Turks anticipate early complications with Russia, and they are making ready for a war. The Turks evidently believe they can, unassisted, meet Russia in the field, and their vanity will probably push them to oppose the advance of a Russian force, and thus cause useless bloodshed.

That the Redifs the Government could muster to defend this province would be utterly routed and dispersed in the first action, if they accepted one, cannot be doubted, nor can it be supposed that after a first defeat any of the fortified positions would hold out, for as there has been no improvement in the discipline of the army or in the education and morale of the officers since the Crimean war, no change in the firmness of the men, or in the courage and ability of the officers to lead them, can be anticipated now. As in 1854, on the threatened advance of Russia, the Turkish Commanders advocated the evacuation of Kars, and would have done so but for the firm opposition of Sir W. F. Williams, so in the present instance, being left to their own devices, they would, it is more than probable, keep themselves beyond the reach of danger by retiring as the Russians advanced.

The Russians must be aware that such would be the case, and they would probably, if they advanced, bring with them a large force in cavalry, which would be employed in pursuing and dispersing the Redifs, and preventing their ravaging the country as they fled.

Samih Pasha has, when talking privately with me on the subject, admitted that no force he could collect would be able to resist the Russians in the field, but he believes he could offer an effectual barrier to their march into the interior of the country by defending the fortified positions, hence his anxiety to get the frontier fortresses and the second line of defence into a proper condition. His Excellency, however, confessed that he had no officers in whom he could trust, and as he could not be everywhere to direct troops, he would, I expect, find his anticipations and hopes bitterly disappointed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 86.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 23. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, October 19, 1876.*

M. JONESCO called upon me yesterday, the 18th instant, to communicate to me the circumstances connected with M. Bratiano's mission, which returned to Bucharest on Monday morning from Livadia.

M. Bratiano was met at the Russian frontier, at Odessa, and Livadia with every mark of distinction; he was immediately received by Prince Gortchakow, and the same day at noon had an audience of the Emperor to present a letter from Prince Charles.

On both occasions he experienced the greatest cordiality, but neither the Emperor nor the Chancellor, during the whole of M. Bratiano's sojourn at Livadia, alluded to anything connected with politics; and it is to be noted that, except for a moment, on the terrace of the Palace, M. Bratiano did not see Prince Gortchakow except in the presence of General Ignatiew.

After dinner, the Empress asked several questions why Roumania had not participated in the Servian movement; and the Hereditary Grand Duke talked to the Minister of War, Colonel Slaniceanu, respecting the number, organization, &c., of the Roumanian army, which, of course, was a natural topic for His Imperial Highness with the War Minister.

So great is the ignorance of the Russian Court respecting this country, that both the Empress and the Hereditary Grand Duke expressed surprise on learning that the Roumanian language is of pure Latin origin, and that Turkish and Slavonic words are rare exceptions, and are regarded as barbarisms only current among the uneducated classes.

General Ignatiew on taking leave of M. Bratiano remarked, "Vous savez que la Roumanie a toujours été l'enfant gâté de la Russie,"—an expression which, coupled with the marked tone of cordiality on all sides, has been construed in a sense that Russia is indisposed to cause gratuitous embarrassment to this Government.

M. Bratiano, wisely, as I think, did not open out any topics respecting the passage of troops and volunteers, or anticipate any of the questions which are now pending in these countries. I had expressed a hope to M. Jonesco that M. Bratiano would be extremely circumspect on this point, and your Lordship will doubtless be of opinion that prudence has been exercised by M. Bratiano and his colleagues in the mission.

Bucharest is full of rumours that this Government and the Prince are disposed to shift their policy in a Russian sense; but I have M. Jonesco's assurance that such is not the case, and, on the whole, I see no reason to doubt his veracity.

With a view of sounding him, I remarked that some Paris newspapers had reported that the Roumanian Government would emerge from their neutrality. I added that although Her Majesty's Government would certainly be of opinion that this country would by so doing take a very perilous step, when the difficulties of the geographical position and other matters were taken into consideration, an indiscreet change of policy would not be a matter of surprise.

M. Jonesco again and again affirmed most emphatically that the present Ministry were thoroughly convinced that they must not deviate from their present policy; that they were supported in their present course by the opinion of the country, by the Chambers, the Prince, and above all by the approbation of those of the Guaranteeing Powers on whose support they set most store.

There have been moments when I fancied that I could discern in Government newspapers a disposition to "trim;" but, putting all other considerations aside, it seems it to me improbable that the Bratiano Ministry is playing a double game: it is not in their tradition as radicals and "rouges," and not being bound by any special obligations to England, I see no reason why M. Jonesco should try to mislead Her Majesty's Government.

The whole matter is important to Roumania as regards her institutions and existence; but, at the present moment, the great question in the East would be neither obstructed nor facilitated by twenty hours were this Government to emerge from her neutral position, and I conceive that M. Bratiano is acting conscientiously and on purely patriotic grounds.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 87.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 24. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, October 22, 1876.*

YESTERDAY, on calling on M. Debains, the French Agent, I found him in conference with M. Bratiano, and a conversation ensued, which I lose no time in reporting to your Lordship.

On speaking to M. Bratiano about the present assembling of the Roumanian forces, he remarked that in all there were but 27,000 men under arms, but that he wished he had the funds at his disposal to call out three times that number.

To which M. Debains replied that he could only congratulate M. Bratiano on the impecuniosity of the Roumanian Treasury, as the calling out of even 27,000 men had been a signal error, and was on all sides construed as a demonstration.

After some wild talk, M. Bratiano proceeded to state that they quite determined, at any risk, and with all the force in their power, to resist and repel any armed infringement of the Roumanian frontier, citing the example of Belgium and Switzerland in 1870-71.

I answered that I failed to see any analogy in the cases of Belgium and Roumania, and that it appeared to me that, by taking the matter into their own hands, they put themselves out of the pale of the guarantee.

M. Bratiano then said, "And if the Guaranteeing Powers do not move in our behalf, we are left to our own resources."

To which I answered, that whether the Guaranteeing Powers did or did not actually interfere, they were bound in the long run to see that the existence of Roumania was not endangered; but that military action on the part of this Government altogether changed the question, adding that Roumania now made common cause with the Porte, and was prepared to draw the sword for the integrity of Turkey, in which case they ought to invite the aid of the Porte and the assistance of at least 100,000 men.

M. Bratiano then changed his ground and said that they did not care at all about the Porte, and would not tolerate a Turkish soldier on Roumanian ground.

I answered that in that case they were running into danger for a mere caprice; that if they were to do battle for the integrity of the Suzerain Power it would be honest and chivalrous, &c., and at any rate represent a principle.

M. Bratiano went on: "If we are beaten and even swallowed up, at all events Europe will respect us—a small people which has succumbed in a struggle for its individuality," &c.

I told the Minister that I had no advice to offer, but that I hoped the Roumanian Government would reflect deeply whether, if it came to a Russian occupation of Bulgaria, they would be wise in declaring war against the Russian Empire; that occupation was not definite war, and that, by imprudent assertions, they would be anticipating and drawing down upon themselves all the evils which they ought most to wish to avoid.

M. Bratiano answered, with some unnecessary vehemence, that if the Guaranteeing Powers would give them an order ("mandat") to permit the passage of Russian troops, they would remain with their arms crossed, but not otherwise.

The declaration of M. Bratiano did not surprise me, as M. Jonesco, a few weeks since, said to me, somewhat vaguely, "We are weak and we are poor, but we shall fight for the inviolability of our territory."

Prince John Ghika, who is also in the confidence of the Ministry, a few days ago held similar language to me; and it would appear that, with unexampled imprudence, M. Bratiano has sent Sir Stephen Lakeman to Constantinople to moot the question *officieusement* the result of which might be to give additional obstinacy to the Porte in needing to the expressed wishes of the Great Powers.

As your Lordship may recollect, Sir Stephen Lakeman played an important part in these countries years ago, in a Turkish sense. He is an inaccurate, imprudent, chattering sort of man, and is under the impression that he might himself get the command of the Roumanian army, which is doubtless at the bottom of his wish to agitate in this matter.

I do not conceal from your Lordship that, in my opinion, the excessive vanity of the Roumanian character is at the root of language such as that held to me by M. Bratiano.

I have lost no opportunity of pointing out to these Ministers the value of Lord Melbourne's maxim, of doing nothing in moments of perplexity; but they seem quite incapable of seeing that their weakness is their strength, and they are possessed by a craving to do something, which something must inevitably be fraught with peril to their existence as a nationality.

I asked M. Bratiano whether the reserves would be dismissed to their homes after the usual time of service.

To which he answered that they could not be kept out, except with the sanction of the Chambers, which would be convoked immediately.

I should add, that the Roumanian resources are at so low an ebb that payments are suspended in all the Departments, except that of War, and the rest of the public service is paid with bills, payable at future dates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 88.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 182. Political.)
Belgrade, October 13, 1876.

My Lord,

ON the 11th instant, a private telegram from Vienna informed this Government that the Porte had met the proposal of an armistice by an offer of one for six weeks.

I received, subsequently, a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, informing me that the Grand Council had decided on armistice till the end of March next.

My private conversations with some members of the Government, and also with a few of my colleagues, have convinced me that it would be quite useless to press its acceptance for so long a term on the Servian Government, unless the Court of Russia can be induced in the meantime to recommend it here.

My Russian colleague, M. Kartzoff, tells me that he has no instructions as yet on the subject, and it would not be advisable to expose this proposal to certain failure by moving in the matter without his support.

When the Prince of Servia applied for the good offices of the six Powers for the restoration of peace in August last, His Highness was induced to do so in the hope that a definite proposal putting an end to the war was about to follow on behalf of the Porte, with the concurrence of all the Powers.

The informal cessation of hostilities came to a sudden termination principally on account of that indefinite mode of arrangement not pleasing General Tchernaieff, and not having the approval of the Russian authorities.

Numerous objections are being put forward to an armistice for the whole of next winter, and, as far as I can judge of the present temper of the persons now in power here, I am not disposed to expect that this Government is likely to accept the present proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 89.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 183. Political.)
Belgrade, October 14, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Governments of France and of Austria-Hungary have sent instructions to their diplomatic Agents to support any representations Count de Kartzoff may make about the armistice.

The latter gentleman assures me that he does not expect his instructions from Livadia till Monday next the 16th instant.

Those of Count Joannini and De Bray are, I believe, of such a nature that they will give their support to an armistice for six months as soon as they ascertain that the Russian Court has decided to give its adhesion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 90.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 187. Political.)
Belgrade, October 19, 1876.

My Lord,

THERE has been some heavy fighting about Deligrad and Djunis during the past week, and the Servians have lost several important positions, such as Crevet and others. Indeed, at one moment, it had been asserted that the important position of Djunis was in Turkish hands. The possession of this entrenchment and of that of St. Nestor, if held by an enemy, would no doubt leave Deligrad itself exposed to be turned, and would enable the Turkish army to advance on Kroushevats and next on Kragoujevatz.

The latter town is situated in the centre of Servia, it contains the only arsenal and factory of munitions of war existing here, and on that account its loss would be a heavy blow to this country.

As the season is getting very late, and the Turkish forces have failed in pushing their recent advantages so as to occupy the principal position called Djunis, it appears unlikely that they can draw any practical result from the last heavy engagements in which it is said that they were victorious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 91.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 188. Political.)
Belgrade, October 19, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship on the 16th instant, by telegraph, No. 186, Political, that in consequence of the instructions received by M. Kartzoff from his Court at Livadia, I found it impossible to carry out your Lordship's wishes by trying to induce the Prince of Servia to accept the armistice of five months, as proposed by the Porte.

All those of my colleagues who were authorized to support me agree in thinking that it would be perfectly useless to do so now that the views of the Emperor of Russia on the subject have been made known to Prince Milan in so unmistakable a manner.

I shall therefore abstain from taking any further steps in this matter of the armistice till I receive fresh instructions from your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 92.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 190. Political.)
Belgrade, October 27, 1876.

My Lord,

IT is now four months since Servia commenced this war, and the leading people here take credit for having so far successfully resisted the Ottoman invasion.

They say that the Russian Court and people having openly recognized their co-operation on behalf of the cause of Eastern Slavs as against the Porte, they have acquired in consideration of their great sacrifices a right to the support of Russia in case of defeat.

In the meantime, no patriotic Servian can deny that his country is well-nigh ruined and exhausted; all its resources wasted and spent, its fields unsown, many villages devastated, and numerous soldiers, *i.e.*, peasants, killed or wounded.

Since the refusal of the armistice, all hopes are centred on the active support of Russia, and disappointment is being felt that no news have arrived yet of a Russian corps d'armée having crossed the Pruth.

Surely the Russian Emperor must know, so say the Servians, how sorely pressed we are; we hardly expected ourselves to be able to withstand during four long months the brunt of the Turkish attacks, but now that we have done our duty as the vanguard of Eastern Christendom, it is high time that we should be relieved from that dangerous post.

The numerous Russian agents recommend them to be patient for a little while longer, and it is said that a Russian corps under General Semeka will shortly cross the Pruth, and traverse Roumania by railway to Suzuu-Séverin, and then cross into Servia at Kladova for the purpose of giving support to General Tchernaieff's army in the Morava valley. If some such assistance does not come promptly, the situation of this country may become one of immense peril.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 93.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 191. Political.)
Belgrade, October 28, 1876.

My Lord,

THERE is a belief prevailing in well-informed circles at Belgrade that the idea of proclaiming their independence is on the *tapis* at Bucharest as well as at Belgrade.

It is said that, as regards Roumania, this plan, combined with the assumption of a Royal title has long been a favourite one with Prince Charles, that Russia recommends it strongly now as a preliminary step to future action, that Prince Bismarck is not badly disposed towards it, and that even at Vienna the objections existing to a recognition of a Roumanian Kingdom are not insurmountable.

After the "pronunciamento" of General Tchernaieff the Austrian Government protested loudly against the title of King of Servia, but I have some reason to think that these objections are no longer so decided in their tone.

As I had the honour to state to your Lordship in my telegram of the 20th September, 1876 (No. 148, Political), I still believe that no determination will be adopted in this matter as long as the question of an armistice is still pending.

But matters have changed so far since that I do not altogether believe in the probability of this plan being entirely given up.

On the contrary, it appears that Russian agents are explaining to influential Servians that as it is not probable that their country can be compensated by an accession of territory for the sacrifices of blood and property submitted to in this war, they must look forward to their independence as their sole remuneration.

I have had some conversation with Prince Wrede about this, and I think that it would be important to know how his Imperial Court may view such an innovation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 94.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 4.*)

(No. 76.)
Scutari, October 23, 1876.

My Lord,

THE day before yesterday I had the honour to report to your Lordship that news had reached this through Montenegro that the fortress of Medun had capitulated, although the authorities here persisted, for some time, in denying that it had done so, or even that Derwish Pasha had withdrawn his head-quarters from the Montenegrin territory near Spuz, and had returned to Podgoritza.

I have not yet been able to ascertain whether this retrograde movement of the Turkish Commander-in-Chief, for I now learn that he has brought with him the bulk of his troops, has been caused by the surrender of Medun and by an impression that Podgoritza can now be seriously threatened from the side of the Koutchi, or whether an encounter of some importance, and apparently not favourable for the Turks, that occurred on the 19th instant near Shistani, on the western side of the lake, has made Derwish Pasha doubtful of the prudence of carrying the war into the enemy's territory near Spuz, whilst the Montenegrins are operating successfully on both his flanks, and almost on his rear.

The fall of Medun has, however, shown that the Turkish General ought not to have contemplated offensive operations on Montenegrin territory with any great confidence, as he had been obliged, notwithstanding his force of upwards of 30,000 regular troops and park of artillery of fifty guns, to turn his back on the fortress which was invested by, at the most, five thousand Montenegrins and Koutchis; and, admitting that his men and artillery would prove more efficient against fourteen thousand Montenegrins in the plain of Bielopavlicka, he could not hope, even after marching across its ten miles successfully, to be in a better condition for forcing the defiles and mountain ranges recommencing at Orialuka.

The serious failures of Achmed Hamdi and Mahmoud Pashas, and also of Derwish Pasha, to afford succour to Medun, situated in Turkish territory and at only two hours' march from Podgoritza, and the numerous other ineffectual efforts of the Turkish troops to gain a footing at different points of the southern Montenegrin frontier, have thrown the inhabitants of this Province, both Mahommedan and Christian, into a state of uncertainty as to the course they ought to follow for their own welfare which is rapidly tending towards becoming a danger for the Imperial Government. The urgent demands of Derwish Pasha on the Governor-General of Scutari for the despatch to his army as irregular troops, of all the inhabitants capable of bearing arms, has obliged Mustafa Pasha to have recourse to means of pressure which threaten to drive the perplexed townspeople as well as mountaineers into open rebellion, and this at a moment when the slightest open disaffection in this direction would render the existence of a Turkish army at Podgoritza most precarious.

So well aware have the Montenegrins been of the advantage of an unsettled state of things in Albania that they have not ceased since the commencement of the war attempting to create a diversion in their favour by endeavouring to induce the semi-independent Mirdites to put themselves in active opposition to the Turkish authorities. Montenegrin emissaries have distributed considerable sums, derived from a source hardly kept secret, among the Chiefs, and the whole power of the Roman Catholic clergy has only been able to counteract these influences to the extent of making the Mirdites maintain an expectant inaction.

The foreign gold and Montenegrin emissaries would have worked in vain had the Turkish authorities shown the slightest sincerity in their protestations that they wished to treat the Mirdites in a straightforward manner, but each time they acceded to demands put forward by the Mirdites, they allowed it to be seen that they were merely doing so temporarily, and that they intended, on the earliest favourable occasion, to punish the mountaineers for taking advantage of what they fancied but a momentary pressure of circumstances.

The Ottoman officials, too, have treated the Roman Catholic clergy more as enemies than friends, so that, although these are collectively, owing to their hostility to the Orthodox Church, opposed to the success of the Slavs, individually they have learnt to hate and fear the Turks.

Should the war continue during the winter, I foresee that the Turkish army must be withdrawn from Podgoritza, if it be wished that the spring should find it still in existence. The Montenegrins have already shown their intention of molesting the free intercourse between Spuz and Podgoritza, by attempting a few nights ago to blow up the Vizier's Bridge, which is the only direct means in existence of crossing the Moraca, a most rapid and dangerous stream, between the two places. The attempt proved so far successful that the bridge is no longer practicable to baggage animals. When the frequent and torrential rains, for which the winters of this country are well known, shall have reduced the road tracks between Podgoritza and the lake into an almost impracticable quagmire, nothing will be easier than for the Montenegrins to constantly cut off the provisions and ammunition being conveyed from the landing-place at Helm to Podgoritza, and thus to frequently disorganize the never very efficient Turkish Commissariat, which is obliged to obtain even the fuel required for the army at this end of the lake. At Podgoritza only about 2,000 men can be billeted on the inhabitants, and the rest must remain under canvas. Most of the troops are Syrians and other Asiatic Moslems, who are unaccustomed to the rigours of

winters such as prevail in Eastern Europe, and, as no attempt has been made to provide them with any extra clothing, their sufferings are likely to prove intense.

Under all these circumstances, I cannot help believing that, if sentimental motives could be set aside, it would be most politic for the Turkish Government to endeavour to come to terms with Montenegro as speedily as possible, and in a manner so as to remove, to all practical extent, existing causes for periodical collisions.

The strength of Montenegro on this side, has been the fact that its frontier has a zone of Turkish territory almost entirely inhabited by Slavs of the Orthodox Church, or, more properly speaking, Montenegrins under Turkish jurisdiction; so that when the Turks are fighting ostensibly on their own ground, they are really keeping a footing amidst a hostile population. But, beyond this zone of Slavs, come the Albanians, of a different race and religion,—either Mohammedan or Roman Catholic,—and opposed by tradition to the Montenegrins. By ceding all the Slav districts to Montenegro, the Turks would at once deprive it of the fulcrum whereon its successful raids have always moved, and offer a frontier peopled by mountaineers as brave and warlike as the Montenegrins, and of a race apart from its neighbours, and, therefore, not open to the intrigues of ambitious nationalities.

This arrangement recommends itself all the more, as it is evident the populations on the north of Montenegro will emerge from their present state into a condition that will leave them more contented than heretofore; so that if Turkey persists in maintaining its hold on the Slavs on this side, they will be the only remaining leaven whereby the Montenegrins will be able to ferment at will the disorders which have ever been so difficult to overcome.

The cession of the districts of the Kontchi Drekolovich, the plain of the Zetiza, up to the River Sem, if not up to the north-western shores of the lakes or fiords of Kastrati and Hoti, and the waters of the Lake of Scutari across to Shistani, would necessarily comprise the towns of Spuz and Podgoritza, as well as the existing Turkish forts and the Islands of Vranina, Lesendra, and Grinozur; but the Moslem populations of all these localities, I believe, do not exceed 8,000, and are mostly confined to the towns and forts. They would, of course, have to be provided for elsewhere, should they decline to stay; but I am not at all sure that many of them would not elect to remain under Montenegrin jurisdiction, as their occupations have hitherto been connected with the supply of the wants of Montenegro. The fact that the Ottoman Government has found itself unable to protect them, will be considered as sufficient excuse for their acceptance of Christian rule.

The line of the River Moraca appears on the map, and even on the locality itself, as a natural boundary; but as it would bring the Montenegrin frontier within pistol-shot of the streets of Podgoritza, and as it would still leave a large Slav population on Turkish territory, that of the River Sem is preferable; whilst, as an extreme limit, the north-western shores of the lakes mentioned above would comprise almost every Slav thereabouts with Montenegrin leanings.

To the west of Montenegro the tribe of the Wassoevitch is, like the Koutchi, divided into two by the present demarcation of the frontier, and it would be desirable that it should be united.

I have abstained from expressing an opinion on the frontier approaching the sea coast, as the interests it involves are not merely local or Turkish.

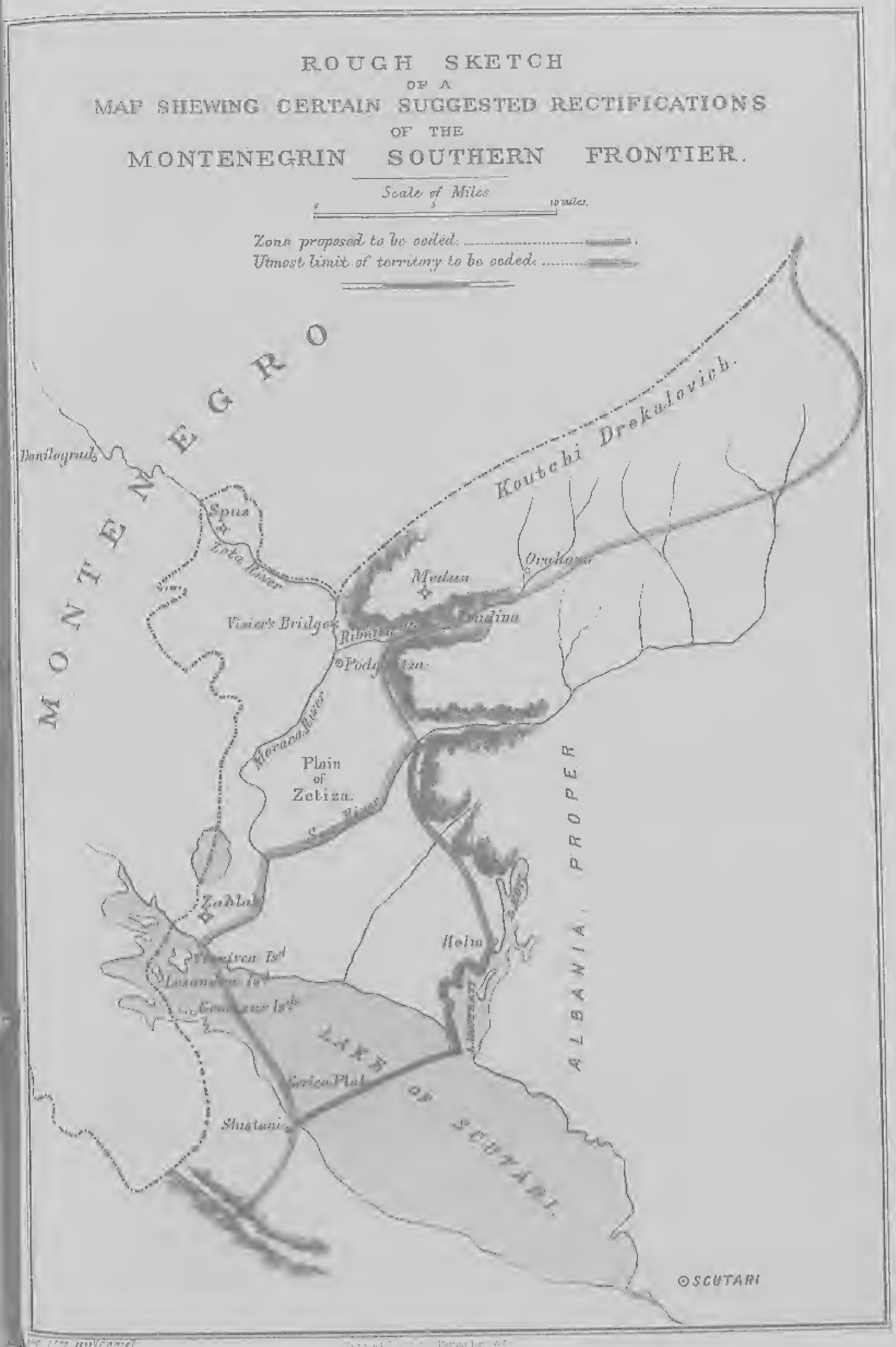
I venture to submit herewith in explanation of my remarks a rough sketch of the zone of territory which I consider might be ceded with advantage to Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Rough Sketch, showing certain suggested Modifications of the Montenegrin Southern Frontier.


ROUGH SKETCH
OF A
MAP SHEWING CERTAIN SUGGESTED RECTIFICATIONS
OF THE
MONTENEGRIN SOUTHERN FRONTIER.
Scale of Miles.
0
5
10 miles.
Zone proposed to be ceded.
Utmost limit of territory to be ceded.
MONTENEGRO
Koutchi Drekalovich.
Danilograd
Spuz
Zeta River
Medun
Orahova
Vizier's Bridge
Ribnitza
Podgoritza
Moraca River
Plain of Zetiza.
Zablak
Helm
ALBANIA PROPER
LAKE OF SCUTARI.
Shistani
SCUTARI

No. 95.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 81. Political.)

Salonica, October 23, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, notwithstanding the sensational rumours which have been and continue to be industriously circulated at Salonica, perfect tranquillity prevails in the place.

The Bairam festival has been celebrated by the Mahommedans in the most orderly manner, and contrary to the custom which prevails in this country of discharging fire-arms at the celebration of the Mahommedan and Christian festivals, the public rejoicings in this instance, which lasted three days, were unaccompanied by any such display.

It appears that the leading members of the Mahommedan community exerted their influence to prevent their co-religionists doing anything likely to offend the religious sentiments of the Christians, or to give rise to the least ill-feeling. In fact, they acted with the purpose of disproving the false rumours which are current here of a fanatical rising against the Christians, and which, I am sorry to report, produce an exaggerated alarm in the minds of some of my colleagues, especially the Russian and Greek. I also hear that the Bairam has been celebrated amidst perfect order and tranquillity in the other towns in Macedonia.

The inclosed is a translated extract of a paragraph which appeared in the "Ermis," a Greek newspaper of Salonica, issued the 20th instant, commending the conduct of the Mohammedan community, and expressing the hope that the Christians, on their part, will show the same forbearance during the celebration of their religious festivals, which I am rather inclined to doubt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Extract from the "Ermis" of October $\frac{8}{20}$, 1876.

NOTRE ville jouit d'une grande tranquillité et régularité, grâce aux mesures qui furent prises en temps par son Excellence notre Gouverneur-Général, et à l'activité du Colonel de la Gendarmerie qui a prohibé les tirs à feu. Sont aussi dignes d'éloges nos concitoyens Musulmans, qui ont non seulement aboli l'usage barbare de tirer à feu, mais ils se sont montrés supérieurs aux expectations du public.

Nous souhaitons à nos coreligionnaires les Chrétiens de suivre leur exemple pendant les fêtes de Paques.

No. 96.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 212. Political.)

Cettigné, October 24, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Medun prisoners arrived this morning at about mid-day, escorted by a battalion of Montenegrins. I counted twenty-two flags, and a Dervish's hatchet, or axe, which had been, for the most part, taken in previous combats, but had been reserved to heighten the effect of the triumphal entry of the victors of Medun.

The spectacle, as the troops in two detachments, with their prisoners forming the centre of the column, wound down the rugged path which leads from Riéka into the valley of Cettigné, was extremely picturesque. The detonations of the musketry, the pealing of the convent bells, the acclamations of the crowd, intensified the impression produced by the savage but martial appearance of the mountaineers, and the subdued but firm bearing of the prisoners. Among the latter were some thirteen officers, who were treated with every consideration, and who seemed to be on excellent terms with their captors.

The long line of prisoners was marched up to the convent gates, and the officers of

the escort, having saluted the Prince, passed with His Highness into the chapel, where a *Te Deum* was chaunted, and the Turkish flags solemnly deposited in sacred keeping.

During the ceremony the prisoners reposed themselves on the turf beneath the convent walls, where huge cauldrons of soup were boiling for their refection. After the meal they were marched into the prison, where, however, there is so little accommodation that their detention can only be temporary.

The Prince entertained at supper in the evening the Turkish officers, and a number of chiefs and notables.

There seems to be the best feeling between the Turkish and Montenegrin officers, and the Prince is, as usual, full of consideration for those whom the fortune of war has thrown into his hands, setting an example of chivalrous courtesy which those about him seem perfectly ready to follow, and which could not be exceeded by any nation with higher pretentions to culture and refinement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 97.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 213. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, October 24, 1876.*

WITH reference to my preceding despatch No. 212 of this day, respecting the arrival of the prisoners from Medun, I have the honour to state that an Aide-de-Camp of the Prince called this morning at 9 o'clock at the Hotel, in the corridor of which my colleagues and I happened to be talking together, and said, in a hurried manner, that the Prince had charged him to tell us that there would be a *Te Deum* at half-past eleven.

I at once declared that I could not attend, but my French and Italian colleagues jumped at the idea of being present at the ceremony, and agreed to put in an appearance in gala costume. I wrote a note to the Prince's Secretary to excuse myself, and telegraphed to your Lordship my intention not to accompany my colleagues.

Colonel Thömmel, finding that I had taken so decided a position, became apprehensive of the view which Count Andrassy might take of his accepting the invitation, and, having talked the matter over with me, went to M. Ceccaldi, the French Agent, and told him that he doubted the expediency of the Representatives of the neutral Powers taking part in such a demonstration. His arguments produced so strong an effect on our French colleague that the latter not only changed his mind, but said that to avoid all danger he should telegraph to the Duc Decazes that the foreign Agents had, of course, not attended the *Te Deum*. I believe, however, that he refrained from sending this telegram.

M. Durando, the Italian Agent, changed his mind with equal rapidity, so the numerous Russian colony were the only foreigners present in the chapel; and when my colleagues found that they had escaped appearing as participators in a triumphal demonstration arranged so as to coincide with the arrival of the Turkish prisoners, they were excessively thankful that they had not given way to their fear of offending the Prince by absenting themselves.

I inclose copies of my correspondence with M. Duby, the Prince's Secretary, respecting my own conduct on this occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

Mr. Monson to M. Duby.

Cher M. Duby, *Cettigné, ce 24 Octobre, 1876.*

SON ALTESSE le Prince ayant daigné m'inviter au "Te Déum" qui sera chanté ce matin à l'occasion des récentes victoires des armées Monténégrines, je viens vous prier de vouloir bien expliquer à Son Altesse que les règlements du service défendent aux employés diplomatiques Anglais d'assister aux cérémonies religieuses célébrées en honneur des événements militaires qui ont lieu durant une guerre dans laquelle la Reine a déclarée sa neutralité.

Son Altesse comprendra, j'ai suis convaincu, que mon absence n'a été motivée que par les considérations sus-mentionnées, et elle ne doutera pas des sentiments de respect et de dévouement dont je suis pénétré pour sa personne et pour tous les membres de sa famille; ni de l'intérêt que je prends au bien-être de la Principauté, et de mes vœux que la prospérité lui soit assurée par la prompte et pacifique solution des difficultés pendantes.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 97.

M. Duby to Mr. Monson.

Cher Monsieur, *Cettigné, le 24 Octobre, 1876.*

J'AI donné connaissance à son Altesse le Prince du billet que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire ce matin. Il a vu ainsi que, par suite d'un malentendu, l'aide-de-camp de service vous a transmis une invitation formelle pour le "Te Déum" célébré aujourd'hui, tandis qu'il aurait du simplement vous prévenir pour le cas où il vous aurait convenu d'être présent.

Le Prince se rend parfaitement compte des motifs qui ont retenu, et il est particulièrement sensible aux sentiments cordiaux que vous témoignez à son égard et à l'égard de sa famille et de son pays.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) R. DUBY.

No. 98.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 214. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, October 27, 1876.*

THE Austrian Agent, Colonel Thömmel, an old friend of the Prince, and one upon whose military knowledge and advice His Highness places great and well-deserved reliance, is frequently summoned to the Palace to confer with His Highness upon the situation. In the course of these interviews, the nature of which Colonel Thömmel invariably imparts to me with the most loyal frankness, he has repeatedly asked the Prince what His Highness knows of the real attitude of Russia; the conduct of M. Yonine being such that his colleagues can repose no confidence in anything that he says.

Colonel Thömmel tells me that the Prince has always assured him that Russia has recently given him no warlike advice; and that he believed that there was nothing in any instructions received by M. Yonine to warrant apprehension that his Government was pursuing a policy hostile to the attempts of the other Powers to bring about peace.

Neither my colleagues nor I can, however, conceal from ourselves that the situation in Montenegro has greatly changed in the last fortnight or three weeks; and that the Russo-Serb influence has considerably consserted itself. I ascribe this, in a great measure to the fact that the Prince has recently received from Belgrade some 6,000*l.*, which is, of course, Russian money; and that the temptation of the joint loan is still kept dangling before his eyes. It would certainly now be difficult, if not impossible, to detach Montenegro from Servia; an operation which might, I think, have been successfully accomplished at the beginning of this month; and which, as much by liberating a force of 50,000 Turks now stationed on the Montenegrin frontiers, as by the moral effect of such a stroke of policy, would have materially altered the complexion of affairs in Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 99.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 408.)

My Lord, *Rome, November 1, 1876.*

WITH reference to a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople of the 30th October, in which it is stated that the Italian Government are mistaken in supposing that Russian influence would be increased by including the Greek provinces in a general measure of reform, I have the honour to observe, in case my despatch No. 405 of the 25th October, did not make the views of the Italian Government sufficiently intelligible on this point, that it is not to a general measure of reform in itself including the Greek provinces to which I understand the Italian Government to object; on the contrary, they are all for the Porte issuing such a general measure if they think it expedient to do so. But what they do object to is accepting any such measure, issued spontaneously by the Porte, as a satisfaction of the demand which has been put forward by the Powers for the adoption of the special measures required for Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Bulgaria under a guarantee which should enable the Powers to see that the arrangements promised were faithfully carried out.

The Italian Government have no reliance upon the spontaneous action of the Turkish Government, and consider that in order to insure the fulfilment of any promises which may be made by the Sultan's Government, it is necessary that the Powers should have the right, which can only be conveyed to them by an engagement being entered into by the Porte with them, of themselves superintending the realization of such promises. A general measure, therefore, without a guarantee, they would look upon as illusory, and with one they would consider that the responsibility of the Powers would go beyond the sphere of action which had been hitherto contemplated, and might therefore be productive of future complications and danger.

Such an arrangement would give each of the Powers a right of interference on behalf of the Christians in any part of the Ottoman Dominions, in Asia as well as in Europe, and as Russia is the Power which would be most likely to avail herself of that right, the Italian Government argue that the acceptance of a general measure of reform, under guarantee, in lieu of the one specially demanded for the insurgent provinces would be open, amongst other reasons against it, to the objection of its being calculated to extend the field of Russian influence and power of intervention in the East. Therefore the Italian Government wishes for the measures restricted to the insurgent provinces as demanded by the Powers; the Porte being at the same time free, if they think fit, to extend those measures to the other provinces by the spontaneous will of the Sultan. The Italian Government does not understand how proceeding in this manner would be an incitement to revolt amongst the Greek or other populations of the Turkish Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 100.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 919.)

My Lord, *Paris, November 3, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes told me this morning that he was informed that on the acceptance by the Porte of the Russian ultimatum respecting the armistice, General Ignatiew had urged his colleagues at Constantinople to enter at once upon the discussion of the further arrangements to be made for the settlement of the Eastern question; in short, that the General was pressing them to begin the Conference immediately.

The Duke said that he was not prepared to act in so precipitate a manner, and that there appeared to him to be several preliminary points, upon which it would be advisable that the Powers should come to an understanding.

He was, he went on to say, particularly desirous of acting in concert with Her Majesty's Government; and he begged me to ask your Lordship to communicate to him as soon as possible your views on the following points:—

1. Where should the Conference meet?
2. When should it meet?
3. Of what Powers should it be composed?
4. What should be the class and number of Plenipotentiaries? For instance, if the Conference were held at Constantinople, should each Government appoint a special Plenipotentiary in addition to its resident Ambassador?
5. What should be the basis of the Conference?
6. What instructions should be given to the Plenipotentiaries?

I did not elicit from the Duc Decazes much information as to his own views on these several points.

He seemed to think that, as a general rule, the appointment of two Plenipotentiaries for a single Power was inconvenient. It was, he conceived, necessary that one of the two should be absolutely the chief; and he observed that in fact the first Plenipotentiary would find his colleague an embarrassment rather than a help, unless he had the direct authority over him which a Minister for Foreign Affairs would possess over a diplomatic subordinate who might be formally associated with him. On this point, however, the Duke professed himself quite ready to do whatever might be agreeable to Her Majesty's Government.

With regard to the third point; that is to say, the question as to what Powers should be represented in the Conference, the Duc Decazes seemed to think that the course which would in all probability be followed, would be to hold preliminary meetings of Representatives of the six Guaranteeing Powers, and subsequently a formal Conference, to which a Turkish Plenipotentiary should be admitted.

With respect to the time at which the Conference should be held, the Duke appeared to be of opinion that no unnecessary delay should take place, but that the other Powers should not be hurried by Russia into acting without having agreed upon proper preliminary arrangements.

The Duke told me that partly in order to show that he was not prepared to act without consideration, he had yesterday sent to the Comte de Bourgoing, the French Ambassador at Constantinople, orders to come immediately to Paris to receive instructions in person.

The Duke added, however, that if he should receive by to-morrow morning intelligence as to the views of Her Majesty's Government which should make it appear that the departure of the French Ambassador might produce inconvenience, he should still be in time to cancel the order of yesterday and direct M. de Bourgoing to stay at Constantinople.

The Duke concluded by begging me to lose no time in conveying to your Lordship his earnest desire to be made acquainted as soon as possible with the opinions of Her Majesty's Government on the several points he had specified. I sent accordingly a telegram to your Lordship directly I got home.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 101.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 3, 1876, 7:20 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Government being satisfied with the answer of the Porte to the ultimatum, General Ignatiew invited his colleagues to concert for the immediate departure of the Delegates to arrange the details of the armistice.

The Delegates for Montenegro will meet at Ragusa, and Colonel Lennox should proceed there as soon as possible.

I have informed Sir A. Buchanan.

No. 102.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 3, 1876, 6 P.M.*

FRENCH Ambassador has received orders to proceed without delay to Paris to receive instructions.

He leaves to-morrow.

No. 103.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

Constantinople, November 3, 1876, 11 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GENERAL IGNATIEW said to-day to his colleagues that as the armistice was established, he proposed that we should meet to discuss the terms of the peace to which it was intended to lead.

I said that I could not enter into such a discussion without precise instructions from your Lordship.

He answered that as the early conclusion of peace was what we all desired, we should endeavour to give a form to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that administrative autonomy should be secured to the insurgent provinces.

I said that your Lordship had explained that the meaning of Her Majesty's Government was that the populations should have a certain control over the administration, but that I had no further information as to their views.

He then observed that this was only the explanation given to the expression by Her Majesty's Government; upon which I reminded him that the explanation had been communicated to all the other Governments, and assented to by them.

An attempt to lay down the manner in which the populations are to exercise the control demanded for them would appear to me open to great objection, and I imagine that all that can properly be done is to examine the measures proposed by the Porte, and to see that they give the security required.

The Russians object to any general measure for the reform of the administration of the whole country, but I believe that the Porte could not safely give exceptional privileges only to the provinces which have revolted, and that it is a question for the decision of the Cabinets rather than of their Representatives here.

No. 104.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

Vienna, November 4, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent following to Sir H. Elliot:—

"I have received following from Monson:-

"Prince Nicholas informs us that fortress of Spuz continues to fire upon Montenegrin positions.

"Russian Agent declares that he has received instructions at once to report to General Ignatiew any infraction of armistice by the Turks.

"The Prince sent to his Chiefs yesterday morning order for suspension of hostilities."

No. 105.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4, 12 P.M.)

Rome, November 4, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

MY Russian colleague told me last night that in compliance with his instructions he had invited the Italian Government to send immediate orders to their Minister at Constantinople to take part in negotiations on the English bases to which they had agreed. He says that Russia understands local autonomy in the same sense as Her Majesty's Government, and that he has heard nothing of any other conditions than those put forward by England.

Italian Military Attaché at Vienna has been ordered to Widdin to join in the delimitation of the armistice.

No. 106.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4, 12·30 P.M.)

Berlin, November 4, 1876, 11·50 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GENERAL WERDER is expected from the Crimea with a letter from the Czar to the German Emperor.

No. 107.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Foreign Office, November 4, 1876, 1·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram to you, instruct Colonel Lennox to proceed to Ragusa and Major Gonne to Belgrade.

I have told Sir H. Elliot to inform them of the terms of armistice, and precise duties required of them.

Telegraph to Sir H. Elliot.

No. 108.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4, 2 P.M.)

Vienna, November 4, 1876, 12·47 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I VENTURE to observe, with reference to Lord A. Loftus' report of his audience of the Emperor of Russia, that, though His Imperial Majesty is doubtless perfectly sincere in the declaration of his intentions with respect to Constantinople, the real question at issue is how far the changes Russia may now endeavour to impose upon the Porte may tend to facilitate her future acquisition of the Bosphorus.

No. 109.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, November 4, 1876, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE instructed Lennox to go to Ragusa and Gonne to Belgrade. You should inform them as soon as possible of the terms of the armistice, and of the precise duties required of them as military delegates.

No. 110.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4, 3·58 P.M.)

Yalta, November 4, 1876, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I COMMUNICATED to Prince Gortchakow satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at assurances given me by the Emperor.

Court leave this on Tuesday next, 7th instant. According to present arrangements will stay three days at Moscow, and then return to St. Petersburgh.

I shall leave on Wednesday for St. Petersburgh.

No. 111.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4, 5 P.M.)

St. Petersburgh, November 4, 1876, 3·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GENERAL FADÉEF gave my informant following information:—

That he had received a telegram from Tchernaieff, telling him that he was seriously wounded.

The General added, "I am going direct to Livadia to ask permission to replace Tchernaieff in command."

He left for Livadia three days ago.

No. 112.

Telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.

Foreign Office, November 4, 1876, 6·30 P.M.

AS there appears to be some hesitation about the formal proposal of a Conference, Her Majesty's Government have determined to take the initiative, and you should propose to the Government to which you are accredited a Conference to be held forthwith at Constantinople, in which all the Guaranteeing Powers and the Porte shall take part, and each Government may have two Representatives.

You will propose the following bases for the deliberations of the Conference, as suggested by Her Majesty's Government:—

1. The independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

2. A declaration that the Powers do not seek for territorial advantages, exclusive influence or commercial concessions, as in the Protocols of September 17, 1840, and August 3, 1860. (See State Papers, vol. xxviii, p. 348, and vol. li, p. 279.)

3. The terms of pacification proposed by Sir H. Elliot to the Porte on my instruction of September 21.

If the Powers agree to this proposal, Her Majesty's Government will at once appoint a special Ambassador to proceed to Constantinople to take part in the Conference.

If desired by the other Powers, Her Majesty's Government would not object to their two Plenipotentiaries joining in preliminary discussions with the Plenipotentiaries of the other five Powers before the opening of the Conference—these discussions to be on the same bases as those proposed for the Conference.

No. 113.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 4, 1876, 6·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to my other telegram respecting the Conference, I have to state that Her Majesty's Government have considered it would be useful that a special Ambassador should be sent to the Conference, but they desire you should act with him and wish you to understand that there is nothing in the appointment which in any way affects their confidence in you as Her Majesty's Representative, and that the special Ambassador will not interfere at all with the ordinary business of the Embassy, being merely appointed *ad hoc* to attend the Conference with you.

No. 114.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 4, 1876.*

THE officers named below have been named as the Austro-Hungarian Delegates for carrying out the demarcation of the armistice:

Colonel Raab, Military Attaché at Constantinople for the Morava, Lieutenant-Colonel Alberi for Montenegro.

No. 115.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Monson.

(No. 7.) *Foreign Office, November 4, 1876.*

Sir,

I APPROVE your having, as stated in your despatch No. 208 of the 22nd ultimo, abstained from joining your colleagues in formally congratulating the Prince of Montenegro on his recent victory.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 116.

Circular addressed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, Rome, and Constantinople.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 4, 1876.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government believe, from the communications which they have received from the Powers, that there is a general feeling that the only solution of the questions arising out of recent events in Turkey is to be found in a Conference, but that there is some hesitation felt in formally proposing it.

Under these circumstances, and with the view of bringing about a satisfactory settlement of those questions, Her Majesty's Government have determined to renew the suggestion made by them on the 5th ultimo, and to take the initiative in proposing that a Conference should be held forthwith at Constantinople, in which all the Guaranteeing Powers and the Porte should take part, and each Government should be at liberty to appoint two Plenipotentiaries to represent it.

Her Majesty's Government further submit as the basis for the deliberations of the Conference:—

1. The independence, and the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

2. A declaration that the Powers do not intend to seek for, and will not seek for, any territorial advantages, any exclusive influence, or any concession with regard to the commerce of their subjects, which those of every other nation may not equally obtain.

This declaration was made on September 17th, 1840, in the Protocol for the pacification of the Levant, and again, August 3rd, 1860, in regard to the pacification of Syria.

3. The bases of pacification proposed to the Porte on the 21st of September, viz.:—

(*a.*) The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

(*b.*) That the Porte should simultaneously undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy, by which is to be understood a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority.

There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against mal-administration in Bulgaria. The reforms already agreed to by the Porte in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th of February last, to be included in the administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and so far as they may be applicable for Bulgaria.

Her Majesty's Government desire that your Excellency should propose to the Government to which you are accredited a Conference on these bases, and you may state that if this proposal meets with general acceptance, Her Majesty's Government will lose no time in appointing a Special Ambassador to proceed to Constantinople to take part in the Conference.

If the other Powers thought it advisable, Her Majesty's Government would not object to their Plenipotentiaries joining in preliminary discussions with the Plenipotentiaries of the other five Guaranteeing Powers before the opening of the Conference. These discussions to be on the same bases as those proposed for the Conference.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 117.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 730.)

Foreign Office, November 4, 1876.

Sir,

IN my preceding despatch No. 727 of this day's date,* I have informed you of the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for the assembling of a Conference, and I have now to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have considered that it would be useful that a Special Ambassador should be sent to the Conference, and that it is their wish that you should act with him.

Her Majesty's Government are anxious that you should understand that there is nothing in this appointment which in any way affects their confidence in you as Her Majesty's Representative; and I should add that the Special Ambassador will be merely appointed *ad hoc* to attend the Conference with you, and will not interfere in any respect with the ordinary business of your Embassy.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 118.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 473.)

Foreign Office, November 4, 1876.

Sir,

I INFORMED your Excellency, by telegraph, on the 2nd instant, that Colonel Lennox, who has been appointed Military Attaché at Constantinople, would shortly arrive at Vienna, having been selected to act as British Delegate for the arrangement of the details of the armistice in Montenegro. I stated, at the same time, that Major Gonne, who had been selected to fill the corresponding post in Servia, should be ready to start as soon as he should receive instructions.

I have to-day telegraphed to you to order both officers to proceed at once, Colonel Lennox to Ragusa and Major Gonne to Belgrade, so as to be ready to enter on their task without delay.

Sir Henry Elliot has been instructed to communicate to them the terms of the armistice, and to explain to them the precise nature of the duties which they will be expected to perform.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 119.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 4, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, November 4, 1876.

SIR A. KEMBALL ought to be provided with a cypher while mediating the armistice. He has at present only Army and Navy Signal Book.

The delegates of the other Embassies leave this on Tuesday by Widdin.

No. 120.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, 8 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, November 4, 1876, 11·45 P.M.

COUNT ANDRASSY arrived here this morning to confer with Emperor, but I have not seen him. I have learnt, however, from Baron Orczy that invitation to a Conference at Constantinople had been received from Russia similar to that reported in Sir A. Paget's telegram of to-day; and having mentioned to him confidentially that I believed some points respecting the Conference were still under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, namely, those referred to in Lord Lyons' telegram of yesterday, I suggested expediency of his calling Count Andrassy's attention to them; for though I had not been

* No. 116.

instructed to ascertain his Excellency's views on the subject, it appeared to me that your Lordship would be glad to be acquainted with them.

Baron Orczy said that he would endeavour to do so in the course of the evening, but I have not yet heard from him. I am told, however, that the Emperor and Count Andrassy, who were to have left Vienna to-morrow, have given up this intention.

No. 121.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5.)

(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, November 5, 1876, 12·30 P.M.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Monson:—

"The Austrian and the Italian Agents propose to leave Cettigné next Monday, their presence here being no longer necessary, and the rendezvous of the foreign delegates being fixed at Ragusa. I trust that your Lordship will authorize me to do the same."

He informs me also that he wants to depart on Monday at noon, as there is no steamer till end of week, and his health is suffering from the cold; but as I understand from Count Andrassy there may possibly be a diplomatic discussion as to principle on which the delimitation is to take place, I have told him that he must not leave till he receives your Lordship's answer.

No. 122.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, November 5, 1876.

I HAVE officially communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, making the formal proposal of a Conference, and strongly urged the Porte to agree to it without hesitation.

His Excellency said that he could express no opinion, but would at once submit your Lordship's proposal to his colleagues.

No. 123.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, November 5, 1876, 3·15 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs came this morning to consult me about sending a Turkish squadron into the Black Sea to guard against a *coup de main* or an attempt by Russia to land troops near the entrance of Bosphorus on either the European or the Asiatic shore.

Porte is, he said, informed that the Russians have about eighty vessels that could at once be employed as transports, and that troops are being directed towards the coast.

I said that I thought a *coup de main* at this moment improbable, and that it was desirable to avoid everything likely to be taken as a menace by Russia, which might pretend an inability to resist the demonstration of public opinion that would be provoked by it.

I should therefore recommend the Porte to keep their fleet at Constantinople ready for immediate service, but not to send them into the Black Sea until an emergency seemed immediate.

No. 123*.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, November 5, 1876, 7·30 P.M.

I SENT following to Sir A. Buchanan:—

"The Military Delegates who go from here by the Danube to Widdin will arrive

at Saitchar on Saturday, and it would be desirable for Major Gonne to meet them at one of those places.

"I think it better that Sir A. Kemball should remain at Alexiantz till they arrive there, as his presence will be a check upon any violation of the armistice."

No. 124.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 5, 1876, 11·20 P.M.*

IN your telegram of November 3, reporting conversation with Prince Gortchakow, you state the Prince to have said to you that if in the Conference to be held Russia should be in a minority on the question of autonomy General Ignatiew would place on record proposals of Russia and withdraw. I have mentioned this language to Count Schouvaloff, and expressed a hope that it does not represent the serious intention of the Russian Government.

If each Government is to go into Conference with a settled plan which it declines to modify, no agreement can possibly be come to, and the Conference is useless.

Take an opportunity of speaking to Prince Gortchakow in sense.

No. 125.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 566.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 5, 1876.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of the 3rd instant, reporting that in a conversation with Prince Gortchakow his Highness stated to you that if in the Conference to be held Russia should be in a minority on the question of autonomy, General Ignatiew would place on record the proposals of Russia and then withdraw.

I have mentioned this language to Count Schouvaloff, and I expressed at the same a hope that it does not represent the serious intention of the Russian Government.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that if each Government is to go into the Conference with a settled plan, which it declines to modify, no agreement can possibly be come to, and the Conference is useless.

I have to request that you will take an opportunity of speaking to Prince Gortchakow in this sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 126.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, November 5, 1876, 2·45 P.M.*

HAVING been requested by Count Andrassy to call on him this morning, I took with me your Lordship's telegram of yesterday relative to the composition of a Conference to be held at Constantinople, and the basis for its deliberations.

He had already received a telegram on the subject from Count Beust, and said that he did not feel satisfied with the explanation it contained as to the question of the autonomy of the Turkish Provinces, and before he agreed to take part in the Conference he wished to know whether Her Majesty's Government are prepared to maintain the understanding formerly come to between the two Governments as to the signification of the term "administrative autonomy," and that they will resist any attempt to give it a wider interpretation.

He said that the question was a vital one, as any system which would lead to the "chimera of disintegration" of the Turkish Empire would be more fatal to it than the entire loss of a portion of its territory. He said that the question being too important for him to form an opinion upon it without mature deliberation, he begged that I would communicate to him in writing the proposal which I had been instructed to make to him, and I promised to do so in the course of the day.

He also asked whether it was essential that the second Plenipotentiaries should have the rank of Ambassador, as he had nobody to send to whom he could give that position, and he further stated that he considered the Plenipotentiaries should not act under general instructions alone, but submit various points which might be discussed to their respective Governments for their final orders respecting them. In his own case, as responsible to Parliament, he said that he could not give anyone authority to act for him by merely general instructions.

No. 127.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, November 5, 1876, 9·15 P.M.*

DURING my interview with Count Andrassy to-day, he said there is another question at issue of more immediate importance than the Conference, namely, the principle on which the delimitation for the armistice is to be carried out.

The natural course would be for the different forces to hold the ground they occupy, but he fears a proposal is about to be brought forward for the withdrawal from Servia of the Turkish troops, as the peace is to be negotiated on the basis of the *status quo ante*. In Montenegro also he understands that the Prince will make difficulties as to revictualling of the fortresses, besides if the Turkish troops are to evacuate Montenegrin territory, the Montenegrins should evacuate that of Turkey.

These are all questions, he said, that cannot be decided by military delegates, and which ought to be arranged diplomatically before the Delegates enter on their duties.

No. 128.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 5, 1876, 5·30 P.M.*

AS Major Gonne informs me that all the Delegates from Constantinople, and the Italian Delegate from hence, are to meet on Thursday morning at Widdin, had I not better instruct him to proceed thither, and if his instructions are at Belgrade they might be sent to meet him at Bazinseb.

No. 129.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential and Secret.) *Vienna, November 5, 1876, 5·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to my preceding telegram of this day on the subject of the Conference, it appears to me that Count Andrassy is apprehensive lest Her Majesty's Government may be disposed to make concessions to Russia on the point of autonomy to be given to Turkish provinces. He said he feared little resistance to Russian views is to be expected from the other Powers, and that unless Austria is supported by England she would stand alone, and proposals would be made to the Porte which it could not accept, and war would be inevitable.

He has been alarmed by reports which have reached him from Berlin of the confidence which Her Majesty's Government are said to place on the views of Russia in consequence of the assurances given by the Emperor of Russia to Lord A. Loftus, as he said the Emperor has been giving similar assurances for the last year, but Prince Gortchakow has been acting in direct opposition to the declared policy of His Majesty, and, in his Excellency's opinion, if such institutions are given to Turkish provinces as his Highness, it is believed, will advocate, a declaration to maintain independence and integrity of the Ottoman Empire will be entirely nugatory.

When Count Andrassy has read note which I have just addressed to him, he may be reassured on this subject; but the telegrams which he had received before my interview

with him (? had alarmed him), and he seemed to think that too great precautions could not be taken against the risk "des surprises" in the proposed Conference.

No. 130.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 5, 1876, 9·30 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Monson's telegram about the fortress of Sputz continuing to fire upon the Montenegrin positions, and his Excellency promised that the orders to Dervish Pasha to suspend all hostilities should be repeated immediately. The first orders were sent from here on Wednesday afternoon, and it is not certain when they may have reached Sputz.

No. 131.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Private and Confidential.) *Vienna, November 5, 1876, 11 P.M.*

I THINK it right to state, with reference to an observation in my telegram of this day, marked Secret, that note to Minister for Foreign Affairs was drawn up in strict conformity with your Lordship's instructions; and his Excellency, when expressing distrust of Russia, said Prince Gortchakow has been announcing that he does not intend to be "magyarised" in the Conference.

No. 132.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 53. Political.)
Bosna Serai, October 27, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch No. 61 of the 26th October, I have just addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, suggesting by seeing that the Porte proposes, in the re-organization of its Administration, still to continue the system of what it calls the "local control" of the mixed Medjlisses or Councils, which at present exist in the provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 132.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

Bosna Serai, October 26, 1876.

Sir,

IN the "Levant Herald" of the 4th October, under the heading of "The Decision of Monday's Council," I find that the Porte proposes, as applicable to Bosnia and the Herzegovina and Bulgaria, the new system of reorganization offered for the whole of the Turkish Empire, "comprising, as it does, a popular elective Legislative Assembly, a Senate, and the local control exercised by the mixed Medjlisses or local Councils of vilayets (departments) and sandjaks (districts) which at present exist in the provinces."

Now, as I have shown in my despatch of June 26th, it is precisely these Medjlisses which, in the provinces, are the obstacles to all reform; and, as far as lies in my power, I anxiously desire to impress on your Excellency the utter futility of hoping any good from any proposal in which these Councils are concerned. The fallacy of the idea that these countries can be benefitted by a control exercised by these mixed Medjlisses is evident to any one who knows of what they are composed, viz., the most influential, but fanatic, ignorant and corrupt of the Mussulman population, and of the

most insignificant and abject of the Christian. If the Christians were even in the proportion of three to one, the Mahommedan minority would still have its own way. The more enlightened of the Christians, the so-called merchants, with hardly the capital, and not the intelligence and education of a small shop-keeper in an English village, have not the courage to sit in a Council in which they know they would have no influence, and dread being molested and injured in their affairs if they spoke a word in opposition to their Moslem colleagues, and, even if they did accept this position, they would, as they have always done, cringe to them, and eagerly receive the small share of the peculation and favour which might be accorded in reward for their subservience.

In 1854 Lord Stratford de Redcliffe instructed me, while Acting Consul at Monastir, to endeavour to persuade some of the more wealthy and influential Christian merchants and proprietors of the place to enter the Medjliss, and make a bold stand against injustice and oppression. All my efforts were useless to induce any man of substance to accept the position. They all urged their unwillingness to expose themselves to the ill-will of the Moslems. Yet these Christians were very much in advance of those of Bosnia in education, influence and wealth. Thus, it is folly to expect that the Christian element, however strong it may be numerically, would be of the smallest advantage as against the Mussulman proportion, which, I see, is always to represent a majority. I have, in the despatch alluded to, shown what is the nature of the Mussulman element in all the Medjlisses, their aims and ideas, and will only repeat that these very persons are they who have refused to admit either the possibility or the necessity of any of the reforms proposed for the Christians. What then can be expected from the control of the administration by these Councils? Nothing more or less than what experience has hitherto shown it to be —no control at all, but a mere substitution of the will of the Medjlisses instead of any proper administration.

Governors-General, with their very limited power, and their own personal interests, are unable, even were they willing, to check the arbitrary conduct and injustice of these Councils. Imperial edicts are regarded simply as waste paper, only issued to throw dust in the eyes of Europe. They command neither respect nor attention, but are simply read and forgotten; and, whatever may be the sincerity of the Porte to have reforms carried out, I do not hesitate to declare that it will never realize them, until not only the Medjlisses have no control over them, but until they are entirely swept away.

There is no hope for reform or progress in the idea of increased local self-government, because neither native Christians nor Turks have the least aptitude or capacity for it. The idea of the Mussulman is simply complete domination over the Christian; that of the Christian seems to be, that it is useless to attempt to avoid this domination; and, consequently, it is usually seen that every Christian admitted to the smallest share of power becomes as oppressive, or even more so, than the Turk, and eagerly uses his position in the same way—to make the most he can out of the temporary chance afforded to him.

I need scarcely remind your Excellency that my long residence here has given me exceptional opportunities for understanding the condition and circumstances of the people of Bosnia, and of arriving at a correct idea of what is most calculated to promote their interests, and what is most practicable in execution; and I have come to the conclusion that there is no means of hoping for success except in a trial of the project I have proposed in the despatch already alluded to, in which real power will be conceded to the Governor, and the personal interest of the authorities of all classes will be to govern well, instead of, as it is now, not to govern at all, but simply to try to enrich themselves by injustice to and oppression of others, whether Christian or Mussulman.

It is not only in Bosnia, but at Monastir, Erzeroum, Kars, Trebizond, Diarbekir, Aleppo, Damascus, and at all the places I have visited in Turkey, that I have noted these local Councils as the bane of the administration, and the insurmountable obstacle to progress and reform. And yet the Porte proposes to confide the control of its new organization to the local Medjlisses!

In my despatch No. 51 of 13th July, I showed how my project would, necessarily, advantageously affect the condition of the Christians, but the proposal of the Porte is simply the old state of affairs, with the addition of promises which cannot be performed under that system.

Now, from all the Turkish Ministers and Pashas to whom I have explained my ideas, I have received their unanimous individual assent to their practicability and utility; and yet, such is the force of self-interest, it would probably meet with opposition from them, as a body, at Constantinople, owing to a feeling of the little personal good it would do Ministers and others, in the loss of all the patronage and the profit arising from this source; and, as I said in my despatch No. 35, "it would perhaps be necessary

to put a strong pressure on the Porte to obtain their realization." But, I think, as this proposal is quite the reverse of degrading to the Ottoman Government, and would not offend the Mussulmans of Bosnia, all personal indifference to it, if pressed as a solution of this difficult question, might be easily overcome. The more intelligent Mussulmans and Christians, and also the foreign Consuls, to whom I have mentioned it here, have equally seen in it the only reasonable hope of reform.

I consider, however, that the chief difficulty in its being carried out would be the ignorance and prejudice of the European Powers, and also the desire of some of them, who might better understand the question, to prevent anything from being effected likely to promote the lasting well-being, tranquillity, and content of the Christian population, notwithstanding all pretensions of having only their interests at heart.

At all events, if the Turks are still to govern this ignorant and divided people,—totally incapable of self-government,—a paternal despotism seems the only possible government; and, provided that the self-interest of all who participate in the government be clearly to do well rather than the reverse, I think no better guarantee could be imagined for a large measure of reform and progress, increasing with time, and culminating in the content and prosperity of all classes.

It is my firm conviction that any promised extension of local self-government is a delusion, which, if accepted, will be the triumph of the enemies of Turkey; as any attempt to govern on the old system of Medjlisses, with whatever promises it may be accompanied, will result in lamentable failure, in renewed agitation and disorder, and eventually render the outcry against the Turks in Europe irresistible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 133.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 6.*)

(No. 22. Political.)
My Lord, *Rustchuk, October 28, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copies of two reports I addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the 18th and 25th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 133.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Rustchuk, October 18, 1876.

Sir,

THE Governor-General yesterday informed me that it had been reported to him, by a reliable correspondent, that a considerable number of the insurgent Bulgarians who had gone over to Servia were suddenly quitting the country, leaving their arms and uniforms behind them, for Roumania, with the intention of crossing over to this Vilayet and proceeding to their native towns and villages, to be ready for another rising, to which they are being urgently instigated from abroad.

His Excellency further informed me that he had applied to the Porte for authority to prevent these men from coming over, and that their number was considerable.

That foreign emissaries are again at work in Bulgaria I have but little doubt, from what I have heard for some weeks past.

M. Ilisitchine, the Chancelier of this Russian Consulate-General, has been at Tirnova during the last fortnight on an alleged mission for the relief of the victims of the late disturbances.

I have also heard of one or two suspicious persons at Tirnova, whom I have recommended the Pasha to have watched, and his Excellency has telegraphed orders for this purpose.

The Pasha also informed me yesterday that five Bulgarian Christians from the neighbourhood of Gabrova had disguised themselves in Mussulman costume and gone into the country between Gabrova and Plevna for the purpose of highway robbery; that they had fallen in with two travellers, a Mussulman, Hajji Cholik, who had 500 liras on him, and

a certain Bulgarian Christian, named Stoyan, with 50 liras; that the Hajji was killed by these men, but Stoyan escaped, and that they carried off the whole of the money.

The Pasha added that by his orders every effort was being made to capture these men.

I was a few days ago informed by my Russian colleague that he had heard that in different parts of the country Mussulmans were again arming themselves, whilst the Christians were being prevented from carrying any, even whilst travelling.

I consequently yesterday asked the Pasha if this was true. His Excellency most emphatically declared that it was not. I, however, told him that, a few days ago, I myself saw in Rustchuk two Circassians with arms on them, and I strongly recommended him to prevent this. His Excellency said that perhaps these were Circassians returning to their homes from the army; but he nevertheless called the Chief of Police, and in my presence gave him the most peremptory order to prevent anyone from carrying arms in the towns, and that he held him strictly responsible for the execution of this order. He further ordered the immediate despatch of a strong circular to all the authorities in the Vilayet, with identical orders, and holding them all responsible for their strict execution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 133.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Rustchuk, October 25, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on Wednesday last I was told that, from the way in which the Mussulmans were openly talking in the cafés, an attack on the Christians was expected on the day after the Bairam, that is, on Sunday last.

Although I thought that this was one of the usual panics, still I next day got a person to see some of the leading Mussulmans here, so as to ascertain if there was any truth in the report made to me.

It appears that the Mussulmans have talked—and are still talking—but in the following sense:—

That having heard of an intention on the part of Russia to enter Turkey, they (the Mussulmans) are determined that if a single Russian regiment makes its appearance on the other side of the Danube alone, to massacre every Christian in the interior, if they cannot do the same on the banks of the Danube.

That this will take place, if the Russians make their appearance, no one who knows the country for a moment doubts, the more so as the Mussulmans are convinced that the Russians will only come here to drive them out of Europe, and they say, "in that case what have we to live for?" To offer the excuse of a temporary occupation will not be of the slightest avail.

I also hear that they are very well aware of the "speeches and writings" in England, advocating their expulsion from Europe, and these have only inflamed them the more.

Under these circumstances the knowledge that there are so few troops in this Vilayet is by no means reassuring to the Christians here, many of whom, I hear, are already prepared to leave at a moment's notice.

I am constantly seeing the Governor-General, and have induced him to take quietly every precaution that is necessary and possible without giving cause for a panic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 134.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 6.*)

(No. 484. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 3, 1876.*

IN my previous correspondence I stated that Field Marshal Baron Manteuffel, on returning from his mission to Russia, had warned the Emperor and Prince Bismarck that England and Russia were growing too intimate, in his opinion, and that if France were to

join them, other Powers might follow, and Germany would be isolated. Russia could be reckoned on when other Powers could not, and was too old and valuable and tried a friend to be neglected for new ones.

Various circumstances appear to have contributed towards awakening the suspicion in Prince Bismarck's mind that Baron Manteuffel was right, and that England and Russia understood each other better than he liked. Their mutual endeavours to settle the Christian question in Turkey, contrary to his calculations, seemed to bring them together, and to promote relations he could not quite account for without suspicion. But when the German Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh telegraphed that Her Majesty's Ambassador was going to Livadia, Prince Bismarck concluded that it was high time to send General von Schweinitz after him.

Lord Augustus Loftus will have reported to your Lordship what his German colleague was instructed to say to the Russian Chancellor; all we know here is that it has produced a letter from the Czar, which General von Werder has been charged to bring to the German Emperor at Berlin.

It is well known that when Prince Bismarck has an object in view, he never hesitates to modify or alter his tactics until it is attained.

Now, in regard to the Eastern complication, he took it for granted that the common interests of England and Austria in Turkey would unite them against Russia, and that, by joining them, he would have the casting vote in his power.

Subsequent events not having justified his expectations, and seeing that Russia supports the advice of England at Constantinople, and has acquired the position he wanted Austria to hold, he thinks it prudent to drop Austria and turn to Russia, so as to find himself at the end, as he now thinks, on the winning side.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 135.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 409.)
Rome, November 3, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive this morning your Lordship's despatch No. 515 of the 27th of October, relative to a telegram from Signor Melegari to the Italian Ambassador in London, giving the substance of a conversation between Signor Melegari and me on the question of the exclusion of a Turkish Representative from a Conference.

I was certainly under the impression that I had correctly represented Signor Melegari's views on this subject when I reported in my despatch No. 405 of the 26th ultimo that his Excellency would consider that the exclusion of a Turkish Representative from any Conference, which might be assembled to discuss the affairs of the provinces and the conditions of peace with the Principalities, would be an act of injustice, and contrary to the spirit of the Treaty of Paris; but I now find, by a conversation I have just had with his Excellency, that I was mistaken in attaching so general a sense to Signor Melegari's objection to the exclusion of a Turkish Representative, and that his Excellency "although of opinion that it would be desirable that a Representative of Turkey should not be excluded from a Conference assembled to discuss the interests of that country, considers, nevertheless, that it is only in the event of a Conference being convoked in virtue of Article VIII of the Treaty of Paris that it would not be possible to exclude a Representative of Turkey."

The words between inverted commas I wrote down at his Excellency's table, and having read them over to him, he said they were correct.

In speaking of the negotiations for peace, his Excellency gave me to understand that he would be ready to urge both Russia and the Porte to act in a spirit of conciliation, and he attached great importance to the influence which Her Majesty's Government might exercise over both Powers in this sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 136.

Mr. Lumley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 109.)
Brussels, November 5, 1876.

My Lord.

IN my despatch No. 104 of the 15th October, I referred to the circumstances attending the detention at Antwerp of forty-one Krupp guns belonging to the Turkish Government.

The Turkish Minister having informed his Government of what had occurred, received a telegraphic instruction to pay the sum in dispute (9,000 fr.), and to order the guns to be forwarded to Constantinople without delay.

This M. Karathéodory did, requesting M. Krupp's agent to deliver the guns to the person he had appointed to receive them.

After a delay of seven days the Turkish Minister received a reply from M. Krupp's agent expressing regret that he could not comply with that instruction, as the firm of Selepin, at Liége, had obtained from the President of the Tribunals of Commerce, and of the Civil Tribunal at Antwerp, an order to detain the guns, pending the payment of a sum of 30,000 fr. due to them for the iron-work of a railway bridge supplied by them to the Turkish Government.

The Turkish Minister immediately demanded that this order should be rescinded, not only on the ground of the absence of any valid proof of this supposed debt to the firm of Selepin, but more especially on the ground of the incompetency of a Belgian Tribunal to pronounce a judiciary sentence affecting the property of a foreign Government in transit through Belgium.

The counsel of the Turkish Legation, in pleading the case before the Tribunal of Commerce at Antwerp, asked what would have been the position of the Belgian Government if, during the war of 1870, it had permitted the President of a Tribunal of Commerce to seize for a disputed debt a battery of guns belonging to the German or the French Governments, and had allowed it to be detained, say for a year, until a Court of Appeal should have pronounced on the legality of the seizure. M. Karathéodory has also addressed a note to the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating what has occurred, pointing out the illegality of the decision of the President of the Tribunal of Commerce, and holding the Belgian Government responsible for the expenses that may be incurred by the delay in the shipment of the guns, as well as for the still more serious consequences that may arise from the detention in Belgium of guns purchased in a third country, and required by the Turkish Government for the defence of their country.

M. Karathéodory is inclined to see in the continued obstacles thrown in the way of the dispatch of these guns to Constantinople the action of a foreign Government, and the more so because he has since learnt that a considerable supply of shell and ammunition, likewise ordered by his Government of M. Krupp, has been lying at Antwerp for the last five months without any notice of its dispatch or arrival having been communicated to the Turkish Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 137.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 6, 1·12 A.M.)

Yalta, November 5, 1876, 11 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

EMPEROR expressed gratification at the appreciation of his assurances by Her Majesty's Government.

I communicated to the Emperor and Prince Gortchakow your Lordship's proposal as regards Conference. Emperor expressed to me wish that in Article No. 1 word "territorial" should be omitted. This would enable Porte to make any territorial concession to Montenegro which it might hereafter deem desirable.

Emperor regretted departure from Constantinople of French Ambassador; his absence causing delay of fifteen days in meeting of Conference.

I shall see Prince Gortchakow to-morrow, and telegraph his Highness's answer to your Lordship's proposals.

No. 138.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 6, 12·40 P.M.)

Vienna, November 6, 1876, 12·8 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday respecting the military delegates I have instructed Major Gonne, in compliance with a suggestion received this morning from Sir H. Elliot to proceed to Widdin to meet his colleagues there or at Saitchar.

No. 139.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 6, 2 P.M.)

Paris, November 6, 1876, 12·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE communicated to the Duc Decazes the contents of your telegram of the 4th, respecting a Conference at Constantinople.

He has no objection himself to the arrangements proposed therein, but he entreats your Lordship to agree to a compromise if objections be raised by other Powers.

No. 140.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 6.)

Vienna, November 6, 1876, 3·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SNOW having fallen in Bohemia, the Emperor having promised to go there, left Vienna last-night for his residence near Pesth, and Count Andrassy also left to visit his family in Hungary, which he had wished to do for some weeks.

His Excellency, who will return here on Friday, had not received my note respecting the Conference before he left.

No. 141.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Foreign Office, November 6, 1876, 5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IT would probably be better that Monson should remain in Montenegro for the present, but you may use your discretion in the matter.

No. 142.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, November 6, 1876, 5·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Sir A. Buchanan's telegram of the 5th instant, reporting a conversation with Count Andrassy respecting delimitation for armistice, report by telegram what are the precise terms of the armistice.

No. 143.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Foreign Office, November 6, 1876, 5·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

POINT out to Count Andrassy that the explanation of administrative autonomy is contained in the proposal made by Sir H. Elliot to the Porte on the 21st of September, which forms the third proposed basis, and say that it is not the practice of Her Majesty's Government to give general instructions empowering Plenipotentiaries to agree to important matters without reference home, and that no final agreement would be come to without their being consulted. You will state that Her Majesty's Government concur therefore with Count Andrassy in this respect.

No. 144.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 6.)

Rome, November 6, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Italian Government accepts in principle the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference at Constantinople.

Official reply in writing to-morrow.

No. 145.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 6.)

Berlin, November 6, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE communicated the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference to the German Government, as instructed by your Lordship's telegram of the 4th instant.

German Minister for Foreign Affairs has submitted it to the Emperor and to the Chancellor. His Excellency will instruct German Ambassador at Constantinople to attend preliminary discussions, and sees no objection to appointment of second Plenipotentiary if necessary.

No. 146.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 6.)

Berlin, November 6, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

(Most Confidential.)

M. BULOW is anxious to be confidentially informed whether your Lordship thinks the limitations of the armistice should admit of the Turks keeping their present positions on Servian territory or not?

Prince Bismarck thinks the Turks should recross the frontier, and evacuate Servian territory, on the principle *statu quo ante bellum* during armistice. This is also the Russian view.

No. 147.

Memorandum communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, November 6, 1876.

NOUS acceptons la proposition Anglaise d'une Conférence, mais pensons que pour les discussions préalables la présence du second Plénipotentiaire n'est que facultative et dépendra de chacune des Puissances.

No. 148.

Memorandum communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, November 6, 1876.

LA Russie désire la réunion d'une Conférence et l'envisage comme le moyen le plus propre pour arriver, dans un accord de toutes les Puissances, à conclure la paix et à assurer le sort des populations Chrétiennes.

Les paroles dites par le Prince Gortchakow à Lord A. Loftus ne tendaient pas à entraver la liberté de la discussion entre les Plénipotentiaires ni à créer des obstacles à la réunion d'une Conférence.

Le Chancelier Prince Gortchakow réitérait à Lord A. Loftus ce que la Russie n'a cessé d'affirmer depuis le mois de Juin.

Elle recherche la prospérité des populations de la Bosnie, de l'Herzégovine et de Bulgarie, au moyen d'institutions d'autonomies locales et administratives qu'elle voudrait réelles et efficaces.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 149.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 6, 1876, 7·15 P.M.*

THE Servians can have no claim to the *status quo ante bellum* till peace is concluded. Her Majesty's Government thinks that the armies ought to retain their present positions.

No. 150.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 734.) *Foreign Office, November 6, 1876.*

Sir,

SIR A. BUCHANAN reports in his telegram of the 5th instant, which has been forwarded to your Excellency, that Count Andrassy has reason to fear that difficulties may be raised as to the principle on which the delimitation for the armistice is to be carried out.

I have to request that you will inform me by telegraph what are the precise terms of the armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 151.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 686.) *Foreign Office, November 6, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received a telegram to-day from your Excellency, in which you state that Prince Bismarck thinks that the Turkish forces should recross the frontier and evacuate the territory of Servia on the principle that, during the armistice, the *status quo ante bellum* should be maintained. You add that this is also the Russian view, and you report that Herr von Bülow is anxious to be informed, confidentially, whether I am of opinion that the delimitation of the armistice should admit of the maintenance by the Turks of the positions now occupied by them on Servian territory.

I have to direct your Excellency to state to Herr von Bülow, as the reply to this inquiry, that Her Majesty's Government consider that the Servians can have no claim to the *status quo ante bellum* till peace is concluded; and that they are of opinion that the respective armies ought, during the armistice, to retain their present positions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 152.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 478.) *Foreign Office, November 6, 1876.*

Sir,

I LEARN from your Excellency's telegram of this day that Mr. Monson had telegraphed that he considered his presence at Cettigné no longer necessary, as the Austrian and Italian Agents were on the point of leaving, and the rendezvous of the foreign delegates had been fixed at Ragusa, but that you had desired him to await orders on the subject as you had reason to believe, from Count Andrassy's language, that there might be a diplomatic discussion as to the principle on which the delimitation under the armistice would be based.

I approve your action in the matter, as I am of opinion that, until the question of the basis of the delimitation is settled, Mr. Monson's presence in Montenegro might be useful; but, as he appears to fear that his health may suffer from delay in his departure, I think it best to leave you to exercise your discretion as to his recall.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 153.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 479.) *Foreign Office, November 6, 1876.*

Sir,

IT is reported in your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, that Count Andrassy had stated to you that, before he agreed to take part in the proposed Conference he wished to know whether Her Majesty's Government are prepared to maintain the understanding between the two Governments as to the signification of the term "administrative autonomy," and would resist any attempt to give it a wider interpretation.

I should wish you to point out to Count Andrassy, that the answer to the question of the maintenance by Her Majesty's Government of their interpretation of the term "local or administrative autonomy" is to be found in the bases submitted to him. The third basis which Her Majesty's Government propose, is "the terms of pacification proposed by Sir Henry Elliot to the Porte, in my instruction of September 21st," and that instruction clearly defined the meaning attached by Her Majesty's Government to the phrase. The bases for the deliberations of the Conference, as they comprise the bases of the terms of pacification, comprise also this definition.

Count Andrassy further stated to your Excellency that he considered that the Plenipotentiaries sent to the Conference should not act under general instructions alone, but should submit to their respective Governments the various points which might be discussed. You may inform Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government concur in this view; as it has never been their practice to give general instructions empowering Plenipotentiaries to agree to important matters without reference home, and they would not authorise the adoption of any final agreement without their being consulted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 154.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 25. Political.) *Bucharest, October 27, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received a telegram from Mr. White at Belgrade, stating that there is a great disposition to proclaim the independence of Servia, should Roumania take a similar step.

There is nothing in the language of these Ministers, or, indeed, in the general tone at Bucharest, which indicates that such a measure is in contemplation. It is, however, not beyond the range of possibilities that the Chambers, which meet in a week's time, might make a declaration in such a sense, in which case the Government would of course allege that the force of circumstances was too strong, and that they were obliged to acquiesce in the expressed wish of the country, more especially if overtures are being made in such a direction from the Servian Government.

As I have already reported to your Lordship, this Government avers that the Roumanian armaments are merely directed to the protection of the inviolability of their territory, but if a contingency such as that contemplated by Mr. White appears to them to be in the atmosphere, the assembly of the troops, and other energetic measures now in execution, would have a double meaning.

There is no doubt that independence and royalty in Servia are attractive inducements to Prince Charles to aspire to a similar state of things in Roumania, but His Highness is extremely prudent, and I imagine is rather waiting for a moment when a declaration of independence would not jeopardize his own position, as well as that of this country, and all will no doubt depend upon the general evolution of matters in Turkey, Greece, and Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 155.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 26. Political.)

Bucharest, October 27, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that this Government is endeavouring to purchase 30,000 rifles in England, and, owing to the shaken credit of the East, and of Roumania in particular, it is probable that the price will be somewhat excessive.

I am informed that, when lately tried, 45 per cent. of the cartridges in store at this arsenal would not go off.

The "Ordre de Bataille" lately published in the Roumanian "Moniteur," which seems to have caused a momentary panic on the Vienna Stock Exchange, is merely a recapitulation of the commands and staff, which always appear when the forces are assembled for exercises and inspections.

The general preparations in the War Department are, however, quite beyond what takes place on usual occasions, but I have already mentioned to your Lordship in previous despatches the alleged and probable reasons of the activity which is now to be observed in military matters in this country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 156.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 27. Political.)

Bucharest, October 29, 1876.

My Lord,

I THINK it right to inform your Lordship that there are numerous rumours that isolated Bulgarians returning to their own country from harvesting in Roumania are being murdered in Turkish villages soon after crossing the Danube.

These men, of course, are known to have their harvest earnings in their pockets, and robbery would be doubtless alleged as the motive.

If these murders take place the perpetrators possibly do not even know whom they are attacking, except that they are Christians and Bulgarians, and the cases being of an isolated character, verification would be extremely difficult.

I should add that Mr. Arthur Green, the son of the late Agent at Bucharest, is my informant, and he tells me that he has heard from Bulgarians of this class that they are now hesitating to return home, as they hear that so many are not turning up in their villages, and that there are no tidings of them.

On all sides I hear that the animus of the Turkish population in Bulgaria is extremely disquieting, and as the Bulgarian harvesters are strangers in this country and anxious to get home, I am rather disposed to give credence to the justice of their apprehensions, as testified by their reluctance to cross the Danube.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 157.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 933.)

Paris, November 6, 1876.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY morning I communicated verbally to the Duc Decazes the proposals respecting a Conference at Constantinople, contained in your Lordship's telegram of the evening before.

Early this morning I sent the Duke a written memorandum of the contents of the telegram, and soon afterwards I went to see him.

He authorized me to tell your Lordship that, for his own part, he should be quite willing to adopt the arrangements proposed by Her Majesty's Government, but that he could not feel certain that they would be readily adopted by other Powers. He must, therefore, he said, beg me to entreat your Lordship in his name, to be willing to accept a

compromise, if objections to your present proposals should be raised by other Governments.

He added that he was particularly anxious on the subject, because the proposed Conference appeared to afford the last hope of preserving peace, and it was therefore of the utmost importance that no preliminary differences of opinion should interfere with its being assembled.

I have already had the honour to transmit the substance of this despatch to your Lordship by telegraph.

I inclose a copy of the memorandum which I sent to the Duc Decazes this morning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 157.

Memorandum communicated to French Government.

A CONFERENCE to be held forthwith at Constantinople, in which all the Guaranteeing Powers and the Port shall take part, and in which each Government may have two Representatives.

The following bases for the deliberations of the Conference are suggested by Her Majesty's Government:—

(A.) The independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

(B.) A declaration that the Powers do not seek for territorial advantages, exclusive influence or commercial concessions, such as was made in the Protocols of the 17th September, 1840, and 3rd August, 1860.

(C.) The terms of pacification proposed to the Porte by the British Ambassador in September.

If the proposal now made be agreed to by the Powers, Her Majesty's Government will at once appoint a special Ambassador to proceed to Constantinople to take part in the Conferences.

If it should be desired by the other Powers, Her Majesty's Government would not object to their two Plenipotentiaries joining in preliminary discussions with Plenipotentiaries of the other five Powers before the opening of the Conference. These preliminary discussions to be on the same bases as are proposed for the Conference.

No. 158.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 934.)

Paris, November 6, 1876.

My Lord,

AS I have reported in my immediately preceding despatch No. 933 of to-day, the Duc Decazes expressed to me this morning his own readiness to accept the proposals respecting a Conference at Constantinople made by Her Majesty's Government.

He appeared, however, to feel some doubt as to the proposals being agreed to as they stand by Russia. He himself, he said, regarded your Lordship's observations respecting a preliminary discussion, in which the Porte should not take part, as very nearly equivalent to a compliance with the recent Russian request that such a preliminary discussion should be begun at once at Constantinople; but he seemed to apprehend that Russia would insist upon more prominence being given to these preliminary meetings, and might object to their not being mentioned by your Lordship before the Conference which they were in fact to precede in point of time.

I said that I could hardly suppose the Russian Government would make so captious an objection as this.

The Duke proceeded to mention some inconveniences which would, in his opinion, be the consequence of the selection of Constantinople as the seat of the Conference; and he observed that it seemed rather hard upon the Turks to hold the preliminary meetings, to which they were not to be admitted, in their own capital. He threw out cursorily the idea that if special Plenipotentiaries were to be sent to Constantinople, they might perhaps arrange to have a preliminary meeting before their arrival, on their road, as it were, thither. He did not, however, dwell on the notion; and he concluded by saying

that, if the other Powers agreed to Constantinople, he should not raise any objection to the choice of that place.

In the course of the conversation the Duke mentioned that the Comte de Bourgoing, the French Ambassador, whom he had summoned to Paris to receive instructions, had left Constantinople, and that he was expected here the day after to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 159.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 935. Confidential.)
Paris, November 6, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE been told, confidentially, on very good authority, that some Russians of note at Paris have received orders by telegraph to go at once to Moscow to meet the Emperor Alexander there.

The persons particularly mentioned to me are a Count Orloff (not Prince Orloff, the Russian Ambassador here), and a Prince Menschikoff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 160.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 936. Confidential.)
Paris, November 6, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Due Decazes mentioned to me this morning that he had received yesterday a visit from Prince John Ghika, who had come to Paris, on his way to London.

The Duke said that he had been told that at Vienna Prince Ghika had held very high language, and had affirmed that Roumania felt entitled to call upon the Western Powers to give her absolute independence, the title of a kingdom, and protection from Russia; that she would prefer obtaining these benefits from the Western Powers, but that if those Powers showed any hesitation about conferring them at once, she must throw herself into the arms of Russia, from whom she would certainly obtain all she desired.

The Due Decazes observed that, when Prince Ghika was at Vienna, war appeared to be imminent, but that on his arrival here he had heard of the armistice, and had perhaps lowered his tone on that account. At all events, he had not held to the Duke language such as that which he was stated to have held at Vienna. He had, indeed, spoken in general terms of the claim which Roumania conceived herself to have established to some favours by the prudent policy she had followed in deference to the counsels of the Western Powers, and he had in particular complained of the refusal of foreign Governments to allow Representatives of Roumania to take rank officially in the Diplomatic Body; but he had used moderate language, and had not put forward any specific or positive demands.

For his own part, the Duke had (he said) pointed out to Prince Ghika that the only prudent course for Roumania was to observe strictly the Treaties, upon which her autonomy and her safety depended. He had, however, soon turned aside from the political question, and had expressed in strong terms to the Prince his deep regret that, by the disabilities she imposed on the Jews, Roumania still set at nought the stipulation that all the inhabitants of the Principality should stand on an equal footing. Prince Ghika had, it appeared, very little to say in answer to this.

Prince Ghika has not put himself into communication with me. The Due Decazes had heard that he was going to England the day after to-morrow, and that one of his objects in doing so was to try and raise a loan in London for the Roumanian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 161.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(Telegraphic.)
Yalta, November 6, 1876, 8 P.M.

I SAW Prince Gortchakow this morning. He agrees to your Lordship's proposals and bases for Conference, with the omission of the word "territorial" preceding "integrity of Ottoman Empire."

His Highness observed that he could not accept that term, as it would exclude possibility of an occupation, which he considers will be still necessary as a guarantee for the security of Christian population and for execution of reforms. This occupation should bear European character, as in the case of Syria, mentioned in the Protocol referred to by your Lordship in 1860, and it might be entrusted to Russia and Austria, acting in the name of Europe. Prince Gortchakow also stated that excesses were still being perpetrated in Bulgaria, and that if they continue, material force would be necessary to maintain order, but he distinctly stated that Russia would not take an inch of territory.

No. 162.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.)
Yalta, November 6, 1876, 11 P.M.

EMPEROR told me yesterday that he had received a telegram from General Tchernieff, requesting permission to wait on His Majesty here, and that he had declined to receive him.

I am told, from a good source, that the Sultan is turning to Russia for protection and support, and it is rumoured that the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs had expressed a wish to come to the Crimea to ask the Emperor to save the Ottoman Empire, but that it was declined.

I hear that, at the private audience of General Ignatiew, the Sultan asked for his support against his present Ministers.

No. 163.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, November 6, 1876, 10·20 P.M.

I AM assured that the steamers of the Russian Black Sea Company are not allowed to run from here on any of the lines except to Odessa.

The steamer to Syria and Egypt, which should have sailed on Saturday, was stopped by order of General Ignatiew, and discharged her cargo and returned the freights paid.

No. 164.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, November 7, 1876, 2·15 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government approve your advice to the Porte not to send a fleet into the Black Sea, as reported in your telegram of the 5th instant.

No. 165.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, November 7, 1876, 3·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 5th, the expression "territorial integrity" is taken from the Treaty of Paris.

From the nature of the relations between the Porte and Montenegro, the expression would not exclude any frontier arrangements with Montenegro which the Porte might be disposed to concede.

No. 166.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.[a]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876, 3·40 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to me the following telegrams from his Government:—

(No. 1.)

"We accept the English proposal for a Conference, but are of opinion that as regards the preliminary discussions the presence of the second Plenipotentiary should be optional, and should be left to the discretion of each of the Powers."

(No. 2.)

"Russia desires the assembling of a Conference, and looks upon it as the best method of attaining, through an agreement amongst the Powers, the conclusion of peace, and security for the position of the Christian population.

"Prince Gortchakow's remarks to Lord A. Loftus were not meant to indicate a desire to impede the liberty of discussion amongst the Powers, nor had they in view the creation of any difficulties in the way of the meeting of the Conference.

"Prince Gortchakow repeated to Lord A. Loftus what Russia has not ceased to affirm since the month of June.

"Russia desires the prosperity of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, to be obtained by institutions granting local and administrative autonomy, which she would wish to be real and efficacious."

No. 167.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 573.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador communicated to me yesterday two telegrams which he had received from his Government.

The first telegram states that the Russian Government accept the English proposal for a Conference, but they presume that the presence of the second Plenipotentiary at the preliminary discussions is to be optional, and left to the discretion of each of the Powers.

In the second telegram it is said that Russia wishes for the assembling of a Conference, and looks upon it as the most likely means of ensuring, through an understanding amongst all the Powers, the conclusion of peace, and security for the welfare of the Christian population.

Prince Gortchakow, in his recent remarks to your Excellency, did not mean to dispute the right of free discussion amongst the Plenipotentiaries, or to place obstacles in the way of the meeting of a Conference.

His Highness only repeated the same language, which the Russian Government has not ceased to hold since the month of June last.

Russia seeks the prosperity of the inhabitants of Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Bulgaria by means of institutions of local and administrative autonomy, which she would wish to see rendered real and efficacious.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

[a] Repeated to Embassies.

No. 168.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876, 4·40 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador has been with me to-day, and requested me to suspend any action for twenty-four hours on your telegram of yesterday, respecting Prince Gortchakow's objections to the word "territorial," as he has represented to Prince Gortchakow that the word is a quotation, and given other reasons for his Highness not pressing his objection.

I have consented to wait accordingly.

No. 169.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7, afternoon.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 7, 1876, 11·30 A.M.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Erzeroom has telegraphed that the Russian Consul was about to leave professedly on business, and had asked him temporarily to protect Russian subjects.

I have allowed him to do so to avoid danger of misunderstanding between them and the Turks. The Russian Consuls have been withdrawn from many of the inland towns, and the effect, if not the intention, of this measure has been to increase irritation of the Turks and to encourage Christians by expectation of an immediate rupture.

Whilst among others the Consul at Adrianople has been withdrawn, the Vice-Consul at Philippopoli, who is a Bulgarian much implicated in the late revolutionary movement, has been reinstated in his post.

No. 170.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 7, 1876, 11·45 A.M.*

WITH reference to Sir A. Buchanan's telegram of the 5th instant, it is understood here that the delimitation of the armistice is to be carried out on the principle usually followed in such cases.

Instructions to the Delegates drawn up upon that principle were unanimously adopted by all the Representatives, including General Ignatiew, who warmly approved them.

The instructions state that the duty of the Commission is to lay down as quickly as possible, and with the most scrupulous precision by the position of the villages, the lie of the ground, &c., the line of demarcation between the armies.

The Commission will be guided in this duty by the fundamental principle of every armistice, according to which the belligerents must retain their respective positions as far as the nature of the ground admits.

A neutral zone of not less than 8 kilometres will be fixed between the advanced posts, from which officers and men of both armies will be rigorously excluded.

The Commission will proceed first to arrange the armistice for the armies of the Morava and the Timoc, as the chief seat of war, and afterwards proceed to the western frontier of Servia.

No 171.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876, 5·15 P.M.*

IT is stated that the Russians commit great excesses, and are guilty of much licentious conduct in Servia. Is this so? If so, report any well-authenticated cases.

No. 172.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 7, 1876, 4·15 P.M.*

I LEARN here confidentially that Prince of Montenegro will probably propose that the Delegates of England, Italy, and Austro-Hungary should (draw ?) up the line of demarcation on the side of Herzegovina, and those of France, Russia and Germany (if a German is appointed) on the Albanian frontier.

His Highness will probably claim on the side of the Herzegovina a line from Klobuk through Bilek to Fotscha, and on the Albanian frontier from the confluence of the Murta and Moruscha all the plateaus of Kutschi and Drekolovitz, leaving the plain of Morocha to be occupied by the Turks. He pretends that no Turkish troops hold the country within these limits. Moukhtar Pasha is believed here to have retired from Zaslap to Trebigné

No. 173.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7, 6:50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November 7, 1876, 4·45 P.M.*

KING and Queen arrived this afternoon, and were received with immense enthusiasm.

No. 174.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 37. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

THE Russians in Servia are said to commit great excesses, and to be guilty of much licentiousness.

I have to instruct you to report to me as to the truth of these statements; and, in the event of their being correct, to inform me of any cases which you can ascertain to be well authenticated.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 175.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 570.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

I HAVE received your telegram of the 5th instant, and I have to point to your Excellency that the expression "territorial integrity," to which it appears that the Russian Government make some objection, is taken from the Treaty of Paris.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that, from the nature of the relations existing between the Porte and Montenegro, this expression would not exclude any frontier arrangements with Montenegro which the Porte might be disposed to concede.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 176.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 571. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me to-day, and I mentioned to him the report which I had received by telegraph from your Excellency that Prince Gortchakow agreed

to the bases for a Conference proposed by Her Majesty's Government with the omission of the word "territorial" preceding "integrity of the Ottoman Empire" in the first basis, on the ground that he could not accept that term as it determined the exclusion of the possibility of occupation which he considered still necessary.

His Excellency begged that I would suspend any action on this Report for twenty-four-hours. He said that he had himself received a similar message from Prince Gortchakoff, but that he had pointed out, in reply, what no doubt had been overlooked, that the words "territorial integrity" were a quotation from a Treaty; that "integrity," without the explanatory word "territorial," would, after all, be the same thing; and that, as Her Majesty's Government had already refused the idea of occupation, the renewal of the proposal as a preliminary in the basis for a Conference would certainly cause Her Majesty's Government to break off from the Conference altogether.

He requested me to understand that he had done this on his personal account, but he did not doubt that his representations would have due weight with his Government, and therefore trusted that Her Majesty's Government would wait at all events for the time he had mentioned, until he received the Prince's answer.

I said that I had listened to his Excellency with much satisfaction, and felt no difficulty in assenting to his request.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 177.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 480.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegrams of the 5th and 6th instant, from which I learn that, having received information from Major Gonne, subsequently confirmed from the Embassy at Constantinople to the effect that those of the military Delegates appointed to carry out the delimitation under the armistice, who were coming from Turkey, would be at Widdin at the end of this week, you had, in compliance with a suggestion made by Sir H. Elliot, directed Major Gonne to proceed to Widdin to meet his colleagues there, or at Saitchar.

I have to state to your Excellency that I approve these instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 178.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 481. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

COUNT BEUST informed to-day, that Count Andrassy had stated to him by telegraph, that he had no objection to the programme for the deliberations of the Conference which had been communicated to him as the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government, but had directed him to make the following observations to me in the strictest confidence.

By the conditions as to the territorial integrity of Turkey, any question as to the "amputation" of the Turkish Empire was excluded. But if the British Government, as had been repeatedly asserted by Count Beust in his telegrams, only looked upon their proposals relating to autonomy as the basis for discussion, then, Count Andrassy observed, it did not appear clear to him whether the same resistance as would be opposed to dismemberment would be made to a state of things acting as a process of slow poisoning or chemical disintegration. The Austro-Hungarian Government were determined, if Her Majesty's Government took up the same position with them, not to go further in regard of the question of autonomy than the original propositions of England; but if the Cabinet of St. James were inclined to go further, nothing would be left to Austria-Hungary but to look exclusively to her own special interests in the way best calculated to protect them.

As regards the suggestion of a second Plenipotentiary, Count Andrassy stated

that he had no objection to offer, but that it was his wish that too much stress should not be laid on the high position of the Ambassadors. Under no circumstances would the Austro-Hungarian Government allow their Plenipotentiaries to do more in important questions than take them *ad referendum*, as it seemed to them hardly possible to reconcile the grant of absolute full powers with Parliamentary institutions.

I replied that the Austria-Hungarian Government might be assured that Her Majesty's Government adhered to their proposals respecting autonomy, and would not depart from them in a Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 179.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 735.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

I HAVE received your telegram of the 5th instant, dated 3·15 P.M., and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your advice to the Porte not to send their fleet into the Black Sea at the present moment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 180.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Stuart.

(No. 102.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1876.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of despatches, as marked in the margin,* upon the subject of Circassian colonization in Thessaly and Epirus.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 181.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 7, 1876, 7 P.M.*

THE Delegates appointed to determine the conditions of the armistice left this to-day for the Turkish head-quarters, viâ Widdin.

No. 182.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November 7, 1876, 11 P.M.*

HAVING taken leave of Emperor, I was not able to deliver the Queen's message in person to His Imperial Majesty, but I immediately sent last evening text to Prince Gortchakow for delivery to His Majesty. Emperor and Prince Gortchakow left for Moscow this afternoon, so I cannot have personal communication with Prince Gortchakow for at least a week.

Your Lordship can only communicate with him, therefore, through Count Schouvaloff.

No. 183.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Yalta, November 7, 1876, 11·30 P.M.*

I LEAVE to-morrow for Petersburgh by Odessa.

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* Nos. 3 and 61.

No. 184.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Scutari, October 28, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 76 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to state that I have now ascertained that the estimate of the Mussulman population residing within the zone, which I think might be ceded with advantage to Montenegro, was far too high, and that I ought to have placed it at 3,000, and not 8,000. This reduction, of course, strengthens the argument in favour of the expropriation of these Mahommedans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 185.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 48. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tunis, October 31, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to state that, in a conversation which I had yesterday with the Prime Minister, he alluded to the articles which have recently appeared in the Italian and other continental papers relative to the intention of Italy to take possession of Tunis in case that passing events in Turkey should lead to the partition of the Turkish provinces in Europe by Russia and Austria. His Excellency observed that he would have taken less notice of these articles had he not received private letters which appeared to confirm them.

We proceeded to the Bey's private apartments, where the conversation was resumed. His Highness evinced much anxiety, and, conceiving that probably the fate of his own country materially depended upon that of Turkey, he was desirous to ascertain whether there was any hope of terminating the existing complications without a war.

I endeavoured, so far as it was within my power, to explain to his Highness the different phases which the Eastern question had undergone since the commencement of the insurrection in the Herzegovina, the separate and various interests which guided the respective policy of the Great Powers, their divergence of opinion, though not openly expressed by all, and the great and unremitting efforts which are being made by Her Majesty's Government to bring about an arrangement which may be acceptable to them as well as to the Sublime Porte. I admitted that the task was surrounded with almost insuperable difficulties, but that, as the very diversity of interests engaged rendered it doubtful whether the Powers contiguous to Turkey could come to any serious understanding with reference to the partition of her European Provinces, there was still a hope that the difficulty which such a combination presented would facilitate the arduous task which your Lordship had undertaken to prevent a war.

No one could foresee the result of a war undertaken on a question which involved so many vital and clashing interests; and this circumstance alone was likely to make even the greatest enemies of Turkey pause and reflect before they undertook it, lest it should lead to their own discomfiture and disaster. The large armies of the present day could not be moved without the expenditure of vast sums of money, and it was not in the power of every Government to obtain it.

It was remarked that, in the event of a war, Great Britain would experience no difficulty in enlisting 500,000 Mahommedans in India in support of the Sultan. I replied that I had no doubt that all the Mahommedans would obey the call; they would consider it a religious duty to support the Caliphate as well as their co-religionaries in Central Asia, who would join them to form an irresistible diversion against a common enemy.

At the close of a very long conversation, his Highness said that the whole Mahommedan world looked to England for aid and protection. The feeling among all classes, even down to the Bedouin shepherd, is intensely English, and many respectable natives have deemed it their duty to call at the Consulate to express their thanks and those of their countrymen for the friendly support given by Her Majesty's Government to the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 186.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 939. Confidential.)
Paris, November 7, 1876.

My Lord,

IN the French newspaper the "Estafette," of the 3rd instant, appeared two sentences, stated to be extracted from a letter received by a great Russian lady at Paris from Prince Gortchakow.

One of these sentences stated that the Russian Government would inexorably enforce the conditions it had determined to impose upon Turkey, the other declared that the writer was astonished at the attitude of France, and began to perceive that his sympathies for this country had their foundation only in his own simplicity.

It was at once known that the lady was the Princess Lise Troubetskoi, and that she had in fact shown to several people a letter from Prince Gortchakow containing sentences similar to, if not identical with, those published in the "Estafette."

The affair made an extraordinary noise.

Prince Orloff, the Russian Ambassador, sent a telegram "en clair" about it to Prince Gortchakow, and received a telegram "en clair" in answer.

The contents of such telegrams often becomes very generally known in Paris.

Prince Orloff was understood to have complained to Prince Gortchakow of the difficult position in which the letter placed him with regard to the French Government, and Prince Gortchakow was believed to have sent a jocose and witty answer, laughing at the idea of a correspondence on politics with the lady in question being taken seriously, and ending with the phrase, "il n'y a rien qui vieillit les vieilles femmes comme la politique."

It appeared, however, that the telegram expressly directed Prince Orloff to remove any impression of want of cordiality towards France on the part of Prince Gortchakow, which might have been made by the publication of the letter to Princess Troubetskoi.

Nevertheless, the incident has produced some uneasiness.

I inclose a copy of the article in the "Estafette."

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 186.

Extract from the "Estafette" of November 3, 1876.

UNE grande dame, appartenant au monde Parisien, a reçu hier une lettre où il y a ces deux phrases très significatives, et qui éclairent d'un jour lugubre la situation et l'avenir de la question d'Orient et de la question Européenne:—

"Nous sommes au plus fort de la crise. J'ai encore l'espoir d'arriver à une entente; mais que l'on sache en Europe que nous serons inébranlables dans les conditions que nous avons eu devoir imposer à la Turquie après mûre réflexion.

* * * * *

"Je suis étonné de l'attitude de la France, et je commence à m'apercevoir que mes sympathies pour elle n'ont été que de la naïveté."

Cette lettre est signée "Prince Gortchakow."

No. 187.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.[*]

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, November 8, 1876, 2:25 P.M.

THE Queen has been pleased to appoint the Right Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to be Her Majesty's Special Ambassador to attend the proposed Conference jointly with Sir H. Elliot.

Inform Government to which you are accredited.

[*] Also to Sir H. Elliot, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Sir A. Buchanan, Lord Odo Russell. This telegram was repeated to Mr. White for his information.

No. 188.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 8, 4:30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Rome, November 8, 1876, noon.

THE answer of the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs is a full acceptance of the Conference on the bases proposed by Her Majesty's Government. His Excellency states that although, in his opinion, the work of the Conference as well as that of the preliminary discussions (would?) have been facilitated by another place of meeting being chosen, and that he considers the sending a special Plenipotentiary to Constantinople as optional to each Government, still, not wishing by raising objections to retard the work of pacification, he does not hesitate to declare that Italy will be represented in the Conference, "in which all the other Guaranteeing Powers shall have agreed to take part."

No. 189.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 576.)
Foreign Office, November 8, 1876.

My Lord,

AT an interview with the Russian Ambassador to-day I asked his Excellency whether he could tell me what were the views of his Government with regard to the administrative reforms required for the Turkish Provinces. I said that I thought that, without in any way pledging our respective Governments, it might be an advantage to have an exchange of ideas on the subject before the Special Plenipotentiaries commenced the more formal discussions.

He told me that he was unable to give me an answer from his own knowledge, but that, anticipating the question I had put, he had telegraphed to his own Government to ask for an outline of the Russian plan which he might communicate to me.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 190.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 736 A.)
Foreign Office, November 8, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the Queen has been pleased to appoint the Most Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to be Her Majesty's Special Ambassador to attend the proposed Conference jointly with yourself.

I have informed by telegraph the Governments of the Guaranteeing Powers of this having been done, and have to request your Excellency also to inform the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 191.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 29. Political.)
Bucharest, November 1, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the regular army now assembled in this country amounts to about 23,000 men of all arms, and about 32,000 of dorobantz, or first reserve, all of whom have received more or less military training, and are alleged to be as good as the infantry of the regular army.

M. Jonesco within the last few days has considerably changed his tone, and is saying that to oppose the entrance of a Russian force would be an act of unpardonable bravado.

For the Bratiano Ministry to enter cordially into action with Russia would betray

an inconsistency which they will probably avoid as long as possible; but it appears to me highly probable that, while endeavouring to keep up some show of neutrality, the Roumanian troops would occupy Giurgevo and Kalafat in force, on the pretext that they apprehend that the Turks might try and place the war on Roumanian ground.

As your Lordship will recollect, in previous hostilities, Kalafat, which is opposite Widdin, has always been occupied by the Turks, and is a point of enormous strategical importance.

By such a line of conduct this Government, without being absolutely at one with the Russian policy, would virtually be rendering considerable services, which, when the possibility is taken into account of the Turks making a dash to occupy Kalafat, would be perfectly intelligible.

The panic at this place is great, but when the Russian armies are fairly in movement, and spending large sums on supplies in these countries, it is doubted whether Russian passage and occupation would be viewed with other than feelings of satisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 192.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 30. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, November 2, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship, a copy of the Speech delivered by Prince Charles this day, on the opening of an extraordinary Session of the Roumanian Legislature.

Your Lordship will observe, that the message lays stress on the position of this country in respect of the Guaranteeing Powers, and it is confidentially hinted to me, that it is extremely probable that this Government will in the course of the next few days address a note to the six Powers through the Agents at Bucharest on the above subject.

There would seem to be a wish, in the face of impending events, to make an effort to provoke an expression of opinion on the part of the Guaranteeing Powers, and more particularly by the Cabinets of Berlin and St. Petersburg regarding the inviolability of the Roumanian frontier.

It does not appear to me, that much would be gained, even if such an expression of opinion be pronounced, for the Power most likely to infringe the neutrality of the United Principalities would of course plead the irresistible necessities of the case, and there is no reason why one Article of the Treaty of Paris should be held to be more binding and sacred than the remainder.

This Government perhaps also may be seeking to find a pretext for adopting a change of policy.

M. Bratiano and M. Jonesco are much louder in their sympathies with the Oriental Christians than was the case a few days since, and may possibly try to justify their inconsistency by alleging that they have in vain sought the countenance and support of the Guaranteeing Powers.

I understand that M. Bratiano complains that he is treated somewhat cavalierly by the Austrian Agent, and in general M. Bratiano is a good deal disposed to resent even the most temperate expression of opinion which does not exactly coincide with his own views.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

Inclosure in No. 192.

Speech of Prince Charles on opening an extraordinary Session of the Roumanian Chambers, November 2, 1876.

Messieurs les Sénateurs,
Messieurs les Députés,

DEVANT la nécessité que le pays éprouve de voir terminée, un jour plus tôt, l'œuvre laborieuse des réformes et des améliorations, qu'il attend de vous avec une

légitime impatience, et en présence des graves circonstances où nous nous trouvons, au milieu des événements qui se déroulent autour de nous; j'ai pris la résolution d'avancer l'époque fixée par la Constitution pour la réunion des Corps Législatifs et de vous convoquer en session extraordinaire.

Nos relations avec les Etats étrangers sont des meilleures. Nous recevons de la part de toutes les Puissances Garantes des encouragements pour le maintien de notre attitude de neutralité, attitude que mon Gouvernement a adoptée dès le commencement des luttes engagées dans la presqu'île des Balcans.

La Sublime Porte elle-même paraît déjà plus disposée à reconnaître la justice de nos revendications.

Nous pouvons affirmer que, chaque jour, nous recevons les meilleurs témoignages des sentiments de bienveillance dont les Grandes Puissances de l'Europe sont animées à l'égard de la Roumanie.

Ainsi, grâce à la direction prudente et ferme que la représentation nationale a imprimée à mon Gouvernement, nous sommes en droit d'espérer que, si des périls au-dessus de ses forces menaçaient l'Etat Roumain, le puissant bouclier de l'Europe garante ne nous ferait pas défaut pour la défense de notre intégrité territoriale et de nos droits nationaux. Cependant, nous avons l'entière conviction qu'un très proche avenir apportera la tranquillité en Orient, grâce aux efforts que toutes les Puissances Européennes font pour l'amélioration du sort des peuples Chrétiens.

Messieurs les Sénateurs,
Messieurs les Députés,

Cette session touchera, dans peu de jours, à la session ordinaire de l'année; les Budgets de l'année prochaine 1877 vous seront alors immédiatement présentés. Ils seront accompagnés des modifications à introduire dans les lois organiques des services publics, lesquels ont été reconnues nécessaires par les réductions que notre situation financière nous a imposées.

Ces modifications législatives devront être votées, en temps utile, avant le commencement de l'exercice de l'année 1877, et elles serviront ainsi à la discussion et au vote des Budgets pour l'année 1878.

Les autres Projets de Loi, tels que celui pour la prestation en nature relative à nos voies de communication, celui de la transformation de l'impôt personnel et celui de la réforme des Lois Départmentales et Communales, réclament tous également votre attention la plus sérieuse. Ce dernier projet est recommandé aux Corps Législatifs comme une réforme indispensable, afin d'assurer au pays les bienfaits du principe de la décentralisation administrative, sans lequel il est difficile d'établir une fois pour toutes cette autonomie communale prescrite solennellement par la Constitution. Les difficultés de la situation sont grandes et nombreuses; cependant je ne doute pas que les Roumains, par leur union et par leur patriotisme, ne sachent aujourd'hui, comme par le passé, les surmonter et les vaincre.

Ainsi vos travaux seront bénis.

CHARLES.

Le Président du Conseil des Ministres, Ministre des Finances, JEAN C. BRATIANO.
Ministre de l'Intérieur, G. D. VENESCO.
Ministre de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics, D. STOURDZA.
Ministre de la Guerre, Colonel N. SLANICEANO.
Ministre des Cultes et de l'Instruction Publique, G. CHITO.
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, N. IONESCO.
Ministre de la Justice, EUGÈNE STATESCO.

Bucarest, le 2 Novembre, 1876.

No. 193.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 8, 1876.*

I HAVE informed Baron Orczy that the Conference has been accepted by Russia with the expression of an opinion that the attendance of a second Plenipotentiary should be

optional. He said that the Italian Minister, in acquainting him with the adhesion of his Government, observed that a Conference of so formal a character might meet more advantageously at a neutral town.

With reference to a statement in a telegram of Lord A. Loftus, I spoke of a newspaper report that Turkey was seeking for an arrangement with Russia alone, but he said the report could have no authentic foundation. I also said that Prince Gortchakow is believed still to consider that foreign troops may be required to oblige populations to accept decisions of the Conference, and he answered that Count Andrassy is not likely to (sanction?) such a proposal should it be made, as the regular troops might be equally well suited for the purpose.

The Ministry here have reason to believe that the voyages of the Russian Black Sea steamers have been restricted to that sea.

No. 194.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 8, 1876.*

WITH reference to Prince Gortchakow's suggestion about the attendance of Second Plenipotentiaries at the preliminary discussions, I would submit that the moment when their presence may be most beneficial will be precisely when the measures to be adopted are being discussed.

The presence of a British Cabinet Minister would have weight with some of the Representatives much under the influence of General Ignatiew.

No. 195.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 9.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 9, 1876, 11·40 A.M.*

THERE is, I believe, no truth in the report mentioned by Lord A. Loftus of the Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs having proposed to go to the Crimea to appeal directly to the Emperor of Russia.

On the other hand, the Turkish public consider the proposals for a Conference and for the autonomy of Provinces as most injurious to their interests; and they are told by the Russians that they both originated with Her Majesty's Government.

This has produced a mischievous effect, and people are beginning to ask whether, if Great Britain has turned against Turkey, it might not be best to throw themselves into the arms of Russia, and trust to the magnanimity of the Emperor. None, at least, of the principal Ministers adopt this view.

No. 196.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 9, 1876, 3·45 P.M.*

INFORM Consuls Holmes and Blunt, and any other Consuls of experience whom it may be desirable to consult, that they will probably be required to meet Lord Salisbury at Constantinople.

No. 197.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 9, 1876, 3·50 P.M.*

YOU may probably be required to meet Lord Salisbury at Constantinople that he may consult you on the state of the Slavonic provinces.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 198.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 9, 1876.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 1181, your efforts to urge greater activity in punishing Bulgarian outrages are approved.

Her Majesty's Government much regret unsatisfactory replies of Grand Vizier. Continue to urge the matter.

No. 199.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 750.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 9, 1876.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1181 of the 21st ultimo, reporting your conversation with the Grand Vizier respecting the punishment of the persons concerned in the late outrages in Bulgaria; and I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your efforts to induce the Porte to show greater activity in bringing to justice every one implicated in those atrocities.

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much regret the unsatisfactory replies of the Grand Vizier on this subject, and they have no doubt that your Excellency will continue to urge the matter upon the most serious attention of the Porte.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 200.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 9, 1876, 3·50 P.M.*

FOLLOWING is from Colonel Wellesley:—

"I hear on good authority that manifesto of mobilization will appear on Sunday. Grand Duke Nicholas is said to be appointed to corps of Southern Army."

No. 201.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 957.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 9, 1876.*

I HAVE received your Lordship's despatch No. 919 of the 3rd instant, reporting the observations which the Duc Decazes had made to you the same morning on the subject of the proposed Conference for the settlement of the Eastern question, and that his Excellency wished to be informed of my views on certain points which are enumerated in your Lordship's despatch.

In reply, I have to observe to your Lordship that my despatch No. 946 of the 4th instant, states fully the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting the proposed Conference, and I have to request your Lordship to explain this to the French Government, and to thank them for communicating so promptly with Her Majesty's Government, and informing them of the proposal to summon the French Ambassador from Constantinople to Paris to receive instructions.

I have already informed your Excellency by telegraph, for communication to the French Government, that Her Majesty has been pleased to appoint the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for India, to attend the proposed Conference, as Special Ambassador, conjointly with Sir H. Elliot.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 202.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 41.)

Foreign Office, November 9, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 188, Political, of the 19th ultimo, in which you inform me that, in view of the instructions received by the Russian Agent at Belgrade from his Government, you had deemed it better to abstain from urging the Prince of Servia to accept the armistice of five months proposed by the Porte; and, in reply, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your conduct in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 203.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby. —(Received November 9, at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 9, 1876.*

PORTE'S answer to the invitation to the Conference has been delayed by a telegram from Musurus Pasha reporting a conversation with your Lordship, in which he stated the objection felt to it by his Government and asked for information on certain points. Ambassador said that your Lordship, after giving some explanations, added, "We must see what your Government will say."

They have therefore sent fresh instructions to Musurus Pasha, and wait for his answer, after communicating them to your Lordship, before they reply to the invitation, but they will certainly end by accepting.

No. 204.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 492. Most Confidential.)

Berlin, November 6, 1876.

My Lord,

HERR VON BULOW told me to-day that he was anxious to be confidentially informed whether your Lordship thinks that the limitation of the armistice should admit of the Turks keeping their present position on Servian territory or not.

Prince Bismarck, he said, was of opinion that on the principle of the *status quo ante bellum* the Turks should recross the frontier and evacuate Servian territory during the armistice—an opinion which was also shared by the Russian Government.

Field-Marshal Count Moltke had been asked to select officers to act with the military agents appointed for the settlement of the armistice, and it was essential to know, before drawing up their instructions, what the views of Her Majesty's Government were as to the respective position the two armies should be advised to occupy.

The Emperor of Russia is afraid that the Turks will commit further atrocities if allowed to remain in Servia, and Prince Bismarck thinks it would be as well to guard against such a calamity by advising them to evacuate their present positions.

I have been told on good authority that this is also the opinion of the German Emperor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 205.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 493.)

Berlin, November 6, 1876.

My Lord,

I COMMUNICATED the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 4th instant, conveying the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference to be held forth-

* Repeated to Embassies.

with at Constantinople, to the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, to be submitted to the Emperor and forwarded to Prince Bismarck at Varzin.

His Excellency said that there could be no objection on the part of the German Government to the appointment of a second Plenipotentiary if necessary, and that meanwhile instructions would be sent to the German Ambassador at Constantinople to attend the proposed preliminary discussions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 206.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 942.)

Paris, November 8, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram *en clair*, dated 2·25 P.M. to-day, and to inform you that, in execution of the instruction contained in it, I have addressed to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs a note informing him that the Queen has been pleased to appoint the Marquis of Salisbury to be Her Majesty's special Ambassador to attend the proposed Conference jointly with Sir Henry Elliot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 207.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November 10.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 8 Novembre, 1876.*

SON Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre m'a communiqué le télégramme de son Excellence Lord Derby concernant la réunion à Constantinople d'une Conférence qui prendrait pour bases de ses délibérations :—

1. L'indépendance et l'intégrité de l'Empire.

2. La renonciation des Puissances médiatrices à tout avantage exclusif.

3. Les termes de pacification proposés dans son télégramme du 21 Septembre, et qui portent le retour au *statu quo ante* pour la Serbie et le Monténégro, et l'établissement d'une autonomie administrative et locale pour certaines autres parties de l'Empire.

Nous sommes on ne peut plus reconnaissants de la sollicitude de sa Seigneurie pour mettre un terme aux embarras de la situation actuelle; nous apprécions la haute valeur des vues de son Excellence; seulement nous nous demandons si, en adhérant à un pareil programme, le Gouvernement Impérial ne se trouvera pas immédiatement entraîné sur un terrain des plus désavantageux pour lui. Le Gouvernement Impérial, en ce moment, est en train de procéder à la mise en exécution et à l'application des nouvelles institutions. Il comprend les exigences de la situation et les signes des temps; il a hâté de faire voir par les faits qu'il poursuit une œuvre de rénovation sérieuse et radicale. Est-ce le moment pour lui de s'engager dans une discussion concernant des autonomies locales? Un pareil principe aurait pour conséquence inévitable de faire avorter les réformes en cours, de détruire par là le prestige de l'autorité, de créer des inégalités choquantes, de soulever dans la pratique des difficultés insurmontables, de garantir une prime aux mouvements insurrectionnels, de faire prendre à la crise un caractère permanent, de constituer en un mot un état de choses qui serait une menace perpétuelle pour la paix de l'Empire et de l'Europe. Indépendamment de ce qui pourrait être dit au sujet des autonomies, la Sublime Porte ne peut se dissimuler la grave atteinte qui serait portée au principe même de l'indépendance de l'Empire, si les affaires intérieures devenaient l'objet des délibérations d'une Conférence internationale. Comment pourrait-elle se résigner à renverser de ses propres mains, en participant à une Conférence ayant pour objet de régler les affaires intérieures de l'Empire, la plus forte barrière que l'Empire puisse mettre aujourd'hui entre lui et ses adversaires? Une fois l'œuvre du Traité de Paris mise de côté, on se trouverait à la merci des événements. Tandis qu'une attaque contre l'Empire constituerait aujourd'hui la violation d'un Traité solennel et un par acte d'aggression, cette attaque, dans le cas où la Conférence n'aboutirait pas, se présenterait comme le résultat inévitable des

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divergences survenues dans le courant de discussions dont la Sublime Porte aurait admis le principe. Soit donc que la Conférence proposée aboutisse, soit qu'elle n'aboutisse pas, le Gouvernement Impérial n'en sortirait pas moins amoindri dans son indépendance ou bien dans les moyens de défense que lui assurent aujourd'hui des engagements internationaux.

Son Excellence Lord Derby, en prenant connaissance des considérations qui précèdent, et qui résument la pensée intime du Gouvernement Impérial, saura discerner, nous n'en doutons pas, la vraie situation de la Sublime Porte.

Nous sommes prêts à faire tout ce qui dépendra de nous pour ramener un moment plus tôt l'ère de la paix et de la tranquillité. Mais la réunion d'une Conférence serait de trop grand inconvénient pour qu'il ne nous soit pas permis de désirer que le Cabinet Britannique veuille bien consentir à ce que l'entente désirée soit obtenue sans la réunion de Plénipotentiaires étrangères ayant pour mission d'engager une discussion sur l'administration intérieure de l'Empire.

Veuillez bien donner lecture à Lord Derby du présent télégramme.

No. 208.

Consul Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, November* 9, 1876.

PORTE has ordered fifteen battalions to be dispatched from Podgoritza to Antivari, to be embarked for Constantinople on transports already on their way to Albania.

Small garrisons will be left in the forts on the Montenegrin southern frontier, and I am told other battalions are to be brought from Podgoritza to winter quarters in Scutari.

No. 209.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 10, 1876.

I HOPE you will send out a very ample staff with Lord Salisbury, for my own men are greatly overworked, and want help, and it may be desirable that one should remain here after the Conference is over.

No. 210.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1876, 3 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of the 8th instant, Her Majesty's Government have no intention of authorizing any preliminary discussion until the bases are settled and Lord Salisbury arrives.

No. 211.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.†

(No. 753.) *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to communicate to the Sublime Porte my despatch No. 554 of the 30th ultimo to Lord A. Loftus, giving a summary of the course of the recent negotiations, a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch of the 2nd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Repeated to Embassies.
† A similar despatch was addressed to Lord Lyons and Sir A. Paget.

No. 212.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 754.) *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1876.

Sir,

YOUR telegram of the 8th instant has been received, and, in reply, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government cannot authorize any preliminary discussions before Lord Salisbury arrives at Constantinople, and until the bases of the Conference are settled.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 213.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1876, 4·45 P.M.

THE Russian Embassy informs me that a telegram has been received from Prince Gortchakow, stating that the Imperial Government accept as it stands ("tel quel") the programme proposed by the Cabinet of London for the meeting of the Conference.

No. 214.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 578.) *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that I have received a communication from the Russian Embassy informing me that Prince Gortchakow has notified to his Excellency Count Schouvaloff by telegraph that the Imperial Government accepts as it stands ("tel quel") the programme which Her Majesty's Government have proposed for the meeting of the Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 215.

The Earl of Derby to the British Embassies at Constantinople, Paris, Rome, Berlin, and Vienna.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1876.

COMMUNICATE to the Government to which you are accredited the despatch to Lord A. Loftus, No. 554 of the 30th ultimo, inclosed in my despatch of the 2nd instant.

No. 216.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 10, 1876.

THE Austrian Agent at Cettigné, who was detained while question as to principle of demarkation was unsettled, leaves to-morrow for Pesth. I have authorized Monson to proceed at the same time to Ragusa.

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No. 217.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 10.)

Belgrade, November 10, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I SHALL be happy, whenever your Lordship offers me an opportunity, to make my experience serviceable in Her Majesty's service, and I shall hold myself, therefore, in readiness.

No. 218.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 606.)

Foreign Office, November 10, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to communicate to the German Government the despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, copy of which was inclosed to you in my despatch No. 680 of the 1st instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 219.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 10, *at night.*)

Vienna, November 10, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

BEFORE leaving Vienna last Sunday, Count Andrassy instructed Count Beust to inform your Lordship that he accepted the Conference in principle. He intended making his official answer on his return to-day, but as, on arriving this morning, he found a telegram announcing his mother's death, he will, I believe, leave again to-night for Hungary, to return on Wednesday.

He has, however, seen the Emperor, and I shall probably be able to learn to-morrow whether any decision was taken about the arrangements for the Conference.

No. 220.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 460.)

Madrid, November 7, 1876.

My Lord,

SENOR CALDERON COLLANTES mentioned to me yesterday that the Spanish Minister at Constantinople had asked him what advice he should give to the Turkish Government, if his opinion was invited as to the best settlement of the question now under discussion between it and the Great Powers. His Excellency said that if the advice of Spain were requested, which he did not think very probable, he had instructed Señor Conde to recommend the Porte to accept the terms proposed to it by your Lordship which, Señor Calderon Collantes observed, were the best calculated to secure peace. But, his Excellency added, all the Spanish Representatives abroad, with the exception of the Minister in London, seemed to be convinced that, although an armistice might lead to the suspension of hostilities for a time, war between Russia and Turkey was inevitable. Happily Spain had nothing to do with the Turkish question, and would hold entirely aloof from taking any part in it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* A similar despatch was addressed to Sir A. Buchanan.

No. 221.

Consul Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 11.)

Scutari, November 10, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE telegraphed following to the Ambassador at Constantinople :—

"Russian Consul informs me he is going to report to his Government what he believes to be infraction of the armistice by the Commander-in-chief at Podgoritza.

"He alleges that the damage lately effected by the Montenegrin artillery on the block-house No. 1 is being repaired.

"If your Excellency considers it would be advisable for the Commander-in-chief to desist, although proceeding complained of may not be irregular, I think that representation from me to him would make him do so."

No. 222.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 11, 1·28 P.M.)

St. Petersburgh, November 11, 1876, 12·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN papers report following speech of Emperor last night at Moscow :—

"During my whole reign I have endeavoured to obtain for the Christians in the East what right and justice demand. Unfortunately my pacific efforts have not obtained desired result. A Conference is now about to assemble at Constantinople, in which Russia will present her demands. If her endeavours are not crowned with success, Russia will be forced to take up arms, and I count on support of my people."

No. 223.

Colonel Lennox to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received November* 11, 4:30 P.M.)

Ragusa, November 11, 1876, 3·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

AT Vienna no instructions except proceed Ragusa. Arrived yesterday, but find no instructions.

No. 224.

*Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received November* 11, 4·55 P.M.)

St. Petersburgh, November 11, 1876, 3·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

M. DE GIERS has informed me that the Emperor and Prince Gortchakow will arrive very early on Monday morning at Tzarsko Selo.

With regard to Emperor's speech at Moscow, of which he has no official intimation, his Excellency considers it not in the light of a menace to appeal to arms, but as a wish, by following the national sentiment, to keep the initiative out of the hands of Slav Committees.

No. 225.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.†

Foreign Office, November 11, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT MUNSTER informs me that he has received a telegram from Berlin informing him that Lieutenant-Colonels von Montey and von Lubeck have been appointed German Commissioners for fixing the line of demarcation between the belligerents.

Lieutenant-Colonel von Montey is going to act in Servia, and Lieutenant-Colonel von Lubeck in Montenegro. The officers will start from Berlin this evening, November 11.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

† A similar telegram was sent to Consul-General White.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 226.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 492.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1876.

I HAVE to-day requested your Excellency by telegraph to give the following information to Mr. Monson :—

I have been informed by Count Münster that he has received a telegram from Berlin notifying to him the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonels Von Mantey and Von Lubeck as German Commissioners for fixing the line of demarcation between the positions of the belligerents; the former officer being selected to act in Servia and the latter in Montenegro. It was intended that they should start to-day from Berlin.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 227.

Memorandum left by Musurûs Pasha with the Earl of Derby, confidentially, on the 11th November, as the expression of a merely personal opinion.

L'OCTROI par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, dans le libre exercice de sa souveraineté, d'institutions propres à assurer à la Bosnie et à l'Herzégovine, ainsi qu'aux autres provinces de l'Empire, une administration municipale libérale, une sécurité parfaite, et une égalité de tous les sujets de la Sublime Porte, sans distinction de religion ou de race.

No. 228.

Baron Brünchen to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 11.)

German Embassy, 9, Carlton House Terrace, November 11, 1876.

Dear Lord Tenterden,

A TELEGRAM has been received last night at this Embassy from Berlin, informing that Lieutenant-Colonels von Montey and von Subeck, have been appointed German Commissioners for fixing the line of demarcation between the belligereuts.

Lieutenant-Colonel von Montey is going to act in Servia, and Lieutenant-Colonel von Subeck in Montenegro.

Both officers will start to-night from Berlin.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) BRÜNCKEN.

No. 229.

The Earl of Derby to Musurûs Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the telegraphic despatch from the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs which your Excellency was so good as to communicate to me yesterday afternoon.

Her Majesty's Government understand from that despatch and from the explanations with which your Excellency accompanied its communication, that the Porte's objections to a Conference are as follows :—

That the expression "local autonomy" used in the proposed basis for a Conference is not employed in any Treaty, is unknown to diplomacy, is vague and elastic in meaning, and may be construed as implying the concession to the provinces to which it is applied of a position of quasi-independence like that enjoyed by Servia and Roumania;

That it would be very impolitic to give special advantages to Bosnia, the Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, inasmuch as a distinction made in favour of those provinces would afford good ground of complaint from the other province of the Empire which have remained loyal, and would be, in fact, a premium on insurrection;

That new institutions and reforms for the whole Empire having been proclaimed by the Sultan, it would be inexpedient to interfere with their operation by the discussion of fresh measures of administration for these particular provinces;

And, lastly, that it is contrary to Treaty obligations and to international usage for the Powers to assemble in Conference to discuss the internal administration of the Turkish Empire.

I have now the honour to state to your Excellency the observations which occur to Her Majesty's Government in regard to the several objections taken by the Porte to the proposal for a Conference which Her Majesty's Government have submitted to the Porte and to the Powers.

Her Majesty's Government understand and appreciate the feelings with which the Porte may regard that proposal, but I must remind your Excellency that under the circumstances of the situation there was no alternative open. The conditions of peace which Her Majesty's Government had agreed upon with the other Governments and recommended for the acceptance of the Porte, not having been accepted by the Turkish Government, the Russian Government proposed the occupation of Bosnia by an Austrian, and of Bulgaria by a Russian force, and the entry of the allied fleets into the Bosphorus. Her Majesty's Government intimated that they were unable to concur in these measures, and it became evident that, unless some suggestion were made which would meet with general concurrence, serious complications might ensue. Her Majesty's Government then reverted to the proposal for an armistice which they had made some time previously, to be followed by a Conference, as the only means remaining which afforded a prospect of arriving at a general agreement.

Her Majesty's Government feel confident that the Porte must be sensible of the necessity of such an agreement being attained, and of the hopelessness of expecting that, without concert with the Powers, a satisfactory settlement of existing differences can be brought about.

Her Majesty's Government cannot admit that, in the basis for a Conference which they have advanced, there is anything contrary to the Treaty obligations subsisting between the Powers and the Porte, or that the Powers are precluded by Treaty from assembling in Conference to discuss the pacification of the Turkish provinces and the measures of administrative reform best adapted for that purpose. I need scarcely remind your Excellency that Conferences were held for a similar object in 1860 and 1867. Moreover, communications have been proceeding among the Powers for the last two years, and the Porte both itself accepted, and urged on the acceptance of Her Majesty's Government, the note of Count Andrassy. There can, therefore, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be no question that the Powers have the right to discuss matters relating to the internal administration of the Ottoman Empire under circumstances like those which have occasioned the present proposal for a Conference.

I have also the honour to point out to your Excellency that both in the telegraphic despatch which your Excellency has communicated to me, and in your Excellency's own observations, the definition given to the expression "autonomy" has been overlooked. Her Majesty's Government have expressly guarded themselves against any proposal for the grant of institutions to these provinces similar to those of Roumania and Servia.

In the basis for a Conference it is distinctly stated that by "local or administrative autonomy" is "to be understood a system of local institutions, which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State."

Her Majesty's Government are disposed to agree with the Porte that administrative reforms, which may be desirable for one part of the Empire, can scarcely be withheld from the rest of it; but they cannot regard this as a reason for not entering upon a Conference to determine what reforms are now required to ensure the pacification of the disturbed provinces.

If the Conference succeeds in agreeing upon a scheme of administration which may have that effect and be otherwise advantageous, it would of course be open to the Porte, and would seem desirable, to extend it, as far as might be applicable, to other provinces; but the immediate necessity which has to be met is to restore order and tranquillity in Bosnia and Herzegovina, repair and redress the injuries to which the population of Bulgaria have been subjected, and punish the perpetrators. The Imperial Hatt proclaiming the new reforms for the Empire will doubtless receive the amplest consideration from the Plenipotentiaries of the Powers when assembled at Constantinople; and due weight will, no doubt, be given to the manifest utility

of adapting any new schemes of administration to the existing institutions of the country, so far as they may be efficient; but Her Majesty's Government regret that they cannot accept the Proclamation of these reforms as in itself sufficient; nor, were they disposed to do so, would there be any probability of the other Powers assenting to such a course.

Since, therefore, concert among the Powers is imperative, and the only means left of arriving at it is by a Conference, Her Majesty's Government trust that the Porte will no longer hesitate to join the other Powers in a prompt acceptance of the Conference on the basis which Her Majesty's Government have proposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 230.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 11, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, November* 11, 1876, 6·30 P.M.

I FIND ten more battalions—twenty-five in all—and two batteries of field-guns are under orders for Constantinople.

No. 231.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 11, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 11, 1876, 8·30 P.M.

I LEFT your Lordship's despatch to Lord A. Loftus to-day with Baron Orczy, accompanied by a few lines to Count Andrassy, and I acquainted him at the same time with the entire acceptance of the Conference programme by Russia. He expressed much satisfaction on learning this, as Russian Ambassador did not believe his Government have accepted. Count Andrassy, who has not yet left for Hungary, had an audience of the Emperor to-day, but Baron Orczy could not aquaint me with his final arrangements about the Conference.

No. 232.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 82. Political.)

Salonica, October 27, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Elliot relative to the settlement of Circassians in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 232.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, October 27, 1876.

Sir,

THE following is an extract of a letter from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, dated Larissa the 19th instant:—

"I have not been able yet to obtain any statement of the number and distribution of Circassians in Thessaly, upon the accuracy of which I can place reliance, but do not despair of procuring one to forward to you ere long.

"Meanwhile I am led to believe that, for the present, at least, no further of these objectionable importations hither are contemplated."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 233.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 83. Political.)

Salonica, October 28, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of this date, to Sir Henry Elliot, with copies of its three inclosures relative to the feelings of the Christian inhabitants of Macedonia, Thessaly, and Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 233.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, October 28, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose three extracts from the correspondence lately addressed to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Suter at Larissa, Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney at Prevesa, and Captain Synge, my correspondent in district of Veria in Macedonia.

The information which these extracts contain is interesting when viewed in connection with the eventual designs of Greece against Turkey, about which the Mahommedan inhabitants appear to feel some anxiety and alarm.

What Captain Synge says about the Christian Rayahs is valuable, as it comes from practical experience of the country, and thoroughly supports all I have heard from persons who have lived long in this country and have had business transactions with the peasantry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 233.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

Larissa, October 21, 1876.

(Extract.)

EVENTS certainly seem assuming grave proportions, and will need watchfulness in this quarter.

Taking the majority I do not think there is any disposition or desire to rise among this Christian population, and that it would prefer being left quiet; but the restless are not wanting, and our neighbours over the border will make the most of these as opportunities offer, and will not fail to cause trouble on the frontier.

We are told that warlike preparations are progressing in Greece, but no movement this way yet is indicated, and matters here still are very quiet.

Rumours are current that Egyptian troops will be sent hither. The force already in the province (Thessaly), excepting a small part at Armyro, Domoko, &c., has continued up to this time camped here, but is preparing to break up for winter quarters after the Bairam, and as Larissa affords insufficient accommodation the bulk will be distributed at Carditza, with Tricalla and the other towns above-named.

The health of the troops throughout the summer has been, and still is, more satisfactory than could well be expected, and, on the whole, their conduct has not left much to be complained of.

Last week some rows took place in the bazaar, owing to soldiers insisting for heavy change for paper money tendered upon small purchases, and the shops shut up in consequence; but prompt action of the authorities soon restored order, without any serious disturbance of public tranquility.

I am informed that the inhabitants of the "Kaleh," or citadel at Volo, who, as you know, are all Moslems, lately applied to and have all obtained rifles from Government, fearing some movement there of the Christians against them; but I cannot discover that any such pretext has been put forward, and similar demand made by other Mahomedans of Thessaly.

The peasantry are in despair at the prolonged drought prevailing, which renders all tillage impossible, and which begins to threaten very serious consequences.

Inclosure 3 in No. 233.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Prevesa, October* 14, 1876.

SINCE I last wrote I heard again from Mr. Consular Agent Kipriotio, and he is still of opinion that the Christians are in danger of being massacred. This is what he writes on the subject in his private letter of the 8th instant:—

(Traduction.)

"Les Turcs convoitent toujours à massacrer les Chrétiens, d'autant plus si quelque signe de révolution se fait jour près des frontières Grecques.

"Le reveil de l'opinion publique en Europe, après les cruautés de la Bulgarie, leurs on fait apprendre à penser toujours de former un dessein de massacre, qui pour eux serait admissible et justifié."

He also acquaints me that three brigands have been captured, and that eleven harbourers of brigands have also been arrested. He makes no allusion, however, to the Bishop of Argyrocastro, who, I am informed, is detained there (Janina) by the Archbishop in accordance with instructions from the Patriarch of Constantinople, to whom the Pasha of Janina has complained that the above Bishop tried his best to prevent Christians from contributing money when, a short time ago, Government appealed to the people for pecuniary aid.

Inclosure 4 in No. 233.

Captain Synge to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Tricovista, District of Veria, October* 15, 1876.

OF the feelings of Turks and Christians with regard to acting in unison for the suppression of brigandage, I fear that the abuse of authority by the parties employed in pursuit of bands of brigands causes a reticence on the part of the peasantry, and makes them rather bear the ills they have than run the double risk of the vengeance of the brigands and a squeezing from some police officer who may quarter himself on the village.

This was not the case when Mehmed Ali Pasha put down brigandage in Thessaly and Macedonia.

A village is called upon (I say a village, but it may be a monastery, one or two houses, or a shepherd) to furnish bread to the brigands; they dare not refuse; or, having given it, they dare not give information to the authorities, or vengeance would be speedily wrecked upon them. On the other hand, should an inkling arrive at the ears of the party in pursuit, the chances are that the petty officer with his party of police will take the opportunity to levy blackmail on the village. A monk in this district was murdered shortly before the death of Soteer for giving information at Veria after having been obliged to give bread to some brigands.

But there is one point which ought to be of assistance in the suppression of brigandage, which is that without local knowledge they cannot last in a district. Strange brigands from distant parts, without the direct connivance and assistance of persons in the locality, cannot sustain themselves.

The few Albanians who committed some small depredations in the early part of this summer were an instance of this, as they had always to press a shepherd as guide from one point to another, and on one occasion were led up to one of the police-stations by a prisoner they had taken, under pretence of bringing them to a sheepfold. Thus, without one or more of a band being connected more or less with the locality, they would be unable to maintain a footing in the district.

That parties of Turks and Christians go out in pursuit of brigands when their presence is known in the district, and that they act in unison and perfectly amicably one with the other, we have daily instances.

Up on the mountains the other day we met a party so composed of twelve persons, who had been out fourteen days.

No band of brigands could exist on the mountains above Veria without its being brought to the knowledge of the authorities, as the police scouts are out in all directions, and their arrangements are excellent.

I see no change in the feelings of the Christians towards the Turks. They are decidedly unfriendly, but not more so than heretofore. As regards any disturbing action the Greeks might take, as I before told you, all, or nearly all, in my neighbourhood are Tchiftlik villages,* which it would be difficult to raise in rebellion, but which, once raised, would be the worst, as having more mischief in their power, and their minds being more easily acted on with promises of the land they now cultivate by halves becoming theirs altogether.

But the state of the Tchiftlik villages can be taken as no criterion for the rest of the country; and, after passing the Veria hills, the villages become "Kephalochori,"† and there are large Greek villages (Koniars), and to the north-east Bulgarians.

If you were to collect all the Tchorbajies of the Tchiftliks and ask them to name any improvements to their status they could wish, I firmly believe (leaving taxation out of the question, which can never be excessive on a population enjoying 165 days of idleness) they would be limited to more civility when in contact with petty officials. There is no doubt that, whether it is a tax-gatherer, a tithesman, a policeman, or any one dressed with a little authority, they do bustle the unfortunate individual with whom they come in contact.

The taxes have been largely reduced this year, and bear heavily on scarcely any of the villages.

The annoyances of cattle robbery and horse-stealing bear very heavily sometimes, but are nearly always committed with the assistance of some of the neighbours. Occasionally the Albanian employés on the Tchiftliks go on marauding expeditions, and loot the house of some Tchorbaje who is known to have some accumulation of wealth.

Beyond these drawbacks, I don't know any class of people in the world better off than the Christian "Rayah" of a Tchiftlik property; if ill-treated, he is always at liberty to leave; if bad times come, his landlord has to support him; if his oxen die, his landlord has to advance him the money for new ones; so that there is no possible reason why there should be any bad feeling between Turk and Christian, nor do I think that such could be raised to a dangerous extent, without playing upon the avarice of the Greek in the way I before mentioned.

Of the "Kephalochori" I cannot pretend to give an opinion, but I should fancy that it would be in them that would exist any danger of a display of ill-feeling towards the Turks.

No. 234.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 84. Political.) *Salonica, November* 1, 1876.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 79, Political, of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of some further correspondence respecting the Bulgarian women and children who have been carried away from Batak, and are supposed to be detained at Nevrocop and other districts of the Vilayet of Salonica.

I am in constant communication on the subject with the Pasha of Salonica; and I have the satisfaction to report to your Lordship that he seems to me to be doing his best for the restoration of these poor people to their homes; but he does not receive from some of his provincial subordinates, in particular Ali Bey, the Mutessarif of Drama, the co-operation and support which their authority and local knowledge enable them to give. He has addressed a complaint to the Porte against the above-named Mutessarif.

Hoping that your Lordship will approve of my action in this matter, I have, &c.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

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* "Tchiftlik," a farm owned by an individual proprietor, and worked by tenants on the "metayer" system.

† "Kephalochori," an independent village, the land of which belongs to and is worked by the proprietors, generally Christians.

Inclosure in No. 234.

Correspondence respecting Bulgarian Women and Children carried away from Batak.

(No. 1.)

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopolis, October 10, 1876.

Dear Sir,

IT has been reported to me that one of the young women carried away by the Bashi-Bazouks from the village of Batak is now detained in or somewhere near Salonica. I venture to bring the matter to your notice, as you are naturally in a better position than I can be to ascertain the truth of the report, and procure the liberation of the girl if she be anywhere in your neighbourhood.*

I am told that this is not the only girl kept a prisoner in your vilayet. About forty young women have been brought back from villages near Nevrocop, but I hear that some eight or ten are still detained in that district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

(No. 2.)

Consul Blunt to the Consul-General of Salonica.

Salonique, le 15 Octobre, 1876.

Je m'empresse de remercier votre Excellence pour la lettre qu'elle m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 12 courant en réponse à la mienne de la même date relativement à la fille Bulgare qui aurait été enlevée de Batak par un Mahométan de Nevrocop.

Je viens de recevoir par le courrier qui est arrivé aujourd'hui de Constantinople une lettre du Vice-Consul Britannique à Philippopolis en date du 12 courant, m'informant qu'une jeune fille Bulgare de celles qui furent enlevées de Batak est détenue à Salonique ou dans ses parages.

Il m'informe aussi que huit ou dix de ces filles sont détenues dans le district de Nevrocop.

Je suis sûr que votre Excellence ordonnera aux autorités compétentes de faire les récherches les plus assidues et complétes pour découvrir ces filles afin de les restituer à leurs parents; et j'attendrais avec impatience d'apprendre de votre Excellence le résultat des mesures qu'elle prendra à cet égard.

(No. 3.)

The Governor-General of Salonica to Consul Blunt.

(Traduction.) *Salonique, le 23 Octobre*, 1876.

J'ai reçu votre communication relativement à la fille Bulgare qui aurait été enlevée de Batak, et qu'on dit être détenue dans ces parages; la même relatait que huit ou dix autres filles Bulgares du même village seraient aussi cachées et détenues dans la Province de Serres.†

L'autorité centrale du Vilayet poursuit activement la recherche de ces filles, afin de pouvoir les restituer à leur patrie et parents; et ne manque pas de donner les ordres les plus sévères dans ce but aux autorités provinciales. Par conséquence, les informations que vous avez eues la bonté de me fournir répondent aux désirs et intentions de l'autorité sur ce sujet, et en vous témoignant toute notre satisfaction là-dessus, nous vous informons que nous avons de nouveau donné des ordres péremptoires y relatifs aux autorités compétentes.

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* The authorities of Salonica are trying to discover where and by whom this girl is detained in this town; they do not think that she has been brought here at all.—*October* 31, 1876.—J. E. BLUNT.

† Nevrocop is in the province of Serres.

(No. 4.)

Acting British Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul Blunt.

(Traduction.)
(Extract.) *Cavalla, October* 25, 1876.

Deux jeunes garçons Bulgares ont été conduits ici de Shari-Shaban, provenant du village Batak, et le Gouverneur ayant constaté (en présence du représentant de l'Evêque Grec) qu'ils furent enlevés lors de la destruction de ce village, il les a expédié au Mutessarif de Drama, qui en informera le Pacha de Salonique.

On dit aussi qu'il y a beaucoup de ces jeunes gens cachés dans les districts de Drama, mais je ne suis pas sûr si ce bruit est fondé.

(No. 5.)

Consul Blunt to Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla.

(Télégraphique.) *Salonique, le 26 Octobre*, 1876.

Procurez et envoyez-moi des détails précis concernant les garçons Bulgares de Batak qu'on dit être détenus dans la Province de Drama.

(No. 6.)

Consul Blunt to the Governor-General of Salonica.

Salonique, le 26 Octobre, 1876.

Je viens de recevoir aujourd'hui même une lettre du Vice-Consulat Britannique à Cavalla m'informant que deux jeunes garçons Bulgares de ceux qui furent enlévés de Batak ont été découverts et expediés par le Gouverneur de Cavalla au Mutessarif de Drama.

Le Vice-Consulat m'informe aussi qu'on dit que plusieurs jeunes garçons Bulgares se trouvent cachés, à l'heure qu'il est, dans les districts de la Province de Drama.

Dans l'espoir que votre Excellence conviendra avec moi qu'il serait mieux de faire venir à Salonique les deux garçons en question, je viens de la prier de vouloir bien donner des ordres télégraphiques à cet effet; et de prendre des mesures nécessaires à l'égard des autres garçons Bulgares qu'on dit être détenus dans la Province de Drama.

Note by Consul Blunt:—

The Pasha at once dispatched a telegraphic order to the Governor of Drama to send these two boys to Salonica. They were brought here on the 29th of October and taken to the Pasha's harem, where they are most kindly treated.

(No. 7.)

The Rev. J. F. Clarke to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Philippopolis, October* 18, 1876.

A young man from Batak, Fodoro Pope Neshof, begs me to ask your assistance in the rescue of his sister from the Turks. Her name is Stephana P. Neshof, and, as he has learned, she is now in the house of the sons of Mehmed Aghu of Osina in Kaza* of Nevrocop; her age is about sixteen; another girl, Ivana, is with her. There are also two others: Zlata, seventeen years, and Gena, eighteen, in the same place. The young man has been very kind to me and our efforts for his people, though suffering very much.

Whatever you can do for him I shall feel grateful for.

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* District.

(No. 8.)

Consul Blunt to the Governor-General of Salonica.

Salonique, le 30 Octobre, 1876.

J'ai reçu la lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 23 courant, par laquelle elle m'informe qu'elle s'occupe sérieusement à découvrir les filles enlevées du village Batak pour les restituer ensuite à leurs parents.

Je crois nécessaire de donner connaissance à votre Excellence des informations que j'ai reçues par une lettre de Philippopolis sur ce même sujet.

Il résulterait de ces informations que des filles enlevées de Batak quatre se trouveraient à Osina, village du district de Nevrocop; deux d'entr'elles, l'une Stephana Néshof, âgée de 16 ans, l'autre Ivana, seraient retenues dans la maison des fils d'un certain Mehmet Aglia. Les noms des deux autres sont Zlatan, âgée de 17 ans, et Gena, âgée de 18 ans. Mais on ignore chez qui elles sont cachées.

(No. 9.)

Consul Blunt to Acting Vice-Consul Calvert.

Salonica, October 31, 1876.

(Telegraphic.)

Two Bulgarian boys have been rescued, and will be sent to-day to Constantinople, to be restored to their parents at Batak.

Pasha of Salonica has dispatched Chief of Police to Nevrocop, to search for other children said to be detained there.

Inform Mr. Clarke.

(No. 10.)

Consul Blunt to Acting Vice-Consul Calvert.

Salonica, November 1, 1876.

(Télégraphic.)

Pasha of Salonica has ordered Governor of Serres to despatch to Philippopolis two Bulgarian young women, natives of Batak. It is said they embraced the Mahommedan faith, and married Turks shortly after their abduction.

(No. 11.)

The Governor-General of Salonica to Consul Blunt.

Salonique, le 30 Octobre, 1876.

(Traduction.)

J'AI reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date d'aujourd'hui, par laquelle vous m'informez que quatre des filles Bulgares qui furent enlevées du village Batak se trouvent actuellement à Osina, village dépendant du district de Novrocop.

Je m'empresse de vous informer que j'ai ordonné au Gouverneur de Serres de trouver sans faute les filles en question et de les envoyer à Philippopolis pour être restituées à leurs parents.

J'ai en outre ordonné au susdit Gouverneur que si quelque garçon ou fille Bulgare de Batak exprimerait volontairement même le désir d'adopter la religion Mahométane de ne pas donner suite à leur désir sans une autorisation spéciale de ma part.

Le Chef de la Police du vilayet se trouvant dans le soudjak de Drama, je lui ai donné des ordres stricts de se rendre sur les lieux et faire les recherches les plus complètes au sujet des autres (enfants) qui pourraient s'y trouver.

(No. 12.)

The following instruction was unofficially communicated to Consul Blunt:—

The Governor-General of Salonica to the Lieutenant-Governor of Serres.

(Télégraphique.)

Salonique, le 30 Octobre, 1876.

(Traduction.)

Il a été porté à ma connaissance que deux filles Bulgares, l'une nommée Stephana Neshof, et l'autre Ivana, qui furent enlevées du village Batak, se trouvent actuellement dans la maison des fils d'un certain Mehmed Agha, du village Isina ou Osina, dépendance du district de Nevrocop; en outre que deux autres filles de Batak, nommées Zlata et Gena, se trouvent cachées dans le village susdit ou dans la ville même de Nevrocop.

Je n'ai pas besoin de vous faire savoir le haut degré d'importance que notre Souverain attache à cette question. Vous de votre côté vous devez employer tous vos efforts, par des moyens confidentiels même, s'il le faut, pour découvrir ces filles, et charger des hommes de confiance pour les conduire convenablement un moment plus tôt à Philippopolis et les remettre à la Commission Impériale qui y siége pour ces affaires.

Je m'occupe ici à apprendre si dans votre circonscription il existe, oui ou non, d'autres enfants Bulgares; et, tout en me réservant de vous en prévenir télégraphiquement du résultat de mes recherches, je vous invite instamment de vouloir faire des investigations minutieuses dans le même but, et d'expédier à Philippopolis tous ceux que vous réussirez à découvrir et de m'en informer.

En outre si parmi ces garçons et filles Bulgares il y aurait quelques uns qui volontairement même exprimeraient le désir de devenir Musulmans vous aurez soin de ne pas donner suite a ce désir sans une autorisation spéciale de ma part.

No. 235.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 267.)

Athens, November 4, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a clever article, and having also the merit of being a short one, which was published in the last number of the "Messager d'Athènes," complaining that after the Cretan insurrection Russia had obtained concessions from the Porte in favour of Servia and Montenegro, as well as for the Bulgarians, on the ground that their pacific attitude had enabled Europe to localise that insurrection, whilst the similar pacific attitude of Greece and of the Greek populations of Turkey, during the present war, is laid to the charge of the Greeks, and assigned as a reason for denying to them any share whatever in the fresh privileges and concesssions which are claimed for the Slav Principalities and populations.

The Greeks in this country naturally enough believe their own kinsmen in the Turkish provinces to be more civilized and intelligent and more deserving of sympathy than the Slavs, and further, that it is the interest of Europe to protect Hellenism as a barrier against the ambition and encroachments of Slavism. It has, therefore, been a bitter disappointment to them to find that the interest of all the Great Powers, and the sympathy of public opinion throughout Europe, seem to have been almost exclusively concentrated upon the Slavs who have taken part in the war, and that unless the Greeks become again a source of trouble and anxiety to the Porte and to Europe, their claims to be placed upon the same footing as the more favoured Slav populations are likely to be ignored.

It is also feared here that Hellenic interests will further suffer if, during the approaching negotiations, Russia succeeds in procuring the recognition of the province of Bulgaria as including large portions of territory on the south side of the Balkans, which have hitherto belonged to Macedonia and Thrace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure in No. 235.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes."

Athènes, le $\frac{18}{28}$ *Octobre*, 1876.

UN des arguments de la diplomatie Russe pour exclure les Hellènes de Turquie de toute combinaison tendant à l'amélioration du sort des Chrétions, c'est leur inaction dans la crise actuelle de l'Orient. La Russie officielle trouverait ainsi moyen de châtier les Grecs d'avoir rendu possible la localisation de la guerre et le maintien de la paix en résistant aux pressantes sollicitations des Comités Panslavistes, de semer les germes d'une guerre prochaine que la Grèce se verrait dans la nécessité d'entreprendre pour la défense des droits des Hellènes menacés à la fois par les Turcs et par les Slaves.

L'Europe se flatterait en vain de rétablir la paix si elle s'avisait de placer les Grecs dans une situation inférieure aux Bulgares et aux Musulmans. Quoiqu'il puisse lui en coûter, la Grèce ne souffrira pas une diminution des droits de l'Hellénisme au profit des autres nationalités de l'Orient. Les demi-mesures proposées par Lord Derby, et que la Russie ne semble pas éloignée d'accepter aujourd'hui, ouvriraient donc un vaste champ à de nouvelles et redoutables complications.

Il n'y a pas dix ans, la presse Russe, qui garde aujourd'hui sur les Grecs le même silence significatif que le Cabinet de Pétersbourg, prétendait que tous les Chrétiens d'Orient, soulevés ou non contre les Turcs, avaient les mêmes droits à la bienveillante sollicitude des Puissances. Lorsque l'opinion publique de l'Europe, émue par l'héroïsme et l'abnégation patriotique des Crétois se faisant sauter plutôt que de se rendre aux Turcs, demandait l'annexion de Candie à la Grèce, la presse Russe, écho fidèle des sentiments du Prince Gortchakow, exigeait les mêmes avantages pour les Slaves dont "l'attitude pacifique avait permis à l'Europe de localiser l'incendie." Le Cabinet de Pétersbourg était dans les mêmes intentions. Le Prince Gortchakow négocia si adroitement, fit si bien comprendre aux Puissances que la conduite des Slaves méritait d'être récompensée, que la Porte consentit à évacuer Belgrade et à démolir les blockhaus qui tenaient en respect les Monténégrins. De leur côté, les Bulgares, qui avaient proposé de marcher contre les Grecs, chose peu Chrétienne assurément, furent, en attendant mieux, émancipés de l'Eglise Œcuménique de Constantinople. Cependant ni les Serbes, ni les Monténégrins, ni les Bulgares n'avaient pris les armes contre la Turquie; c'est même à leur abstention qu'ils durent d'obtenir les avantages que nous venons de signaler. A vrai dire l'insurrection Crétoise ne profita qu'aux Slaves, que, sur les instances de la Russie, l'Europe récompensa d'avoir gardé la neutralité dans le différend Turco-Hellénique.

Rien ne nous semble donc plus facile que la réfutation des arguments de la diplomatie Russe. On pourrait même, au besoin, rappeler la circulaire du Prince Gortchakow pour combattre la proposition de Napoléon III qui avait conseillé à la Porte la cession de Candie à la Grèce. L'homme d'Etat, qui, pour les mauvaises raisons que l'on sait, s'oppose aujourd'hui à l'amélioration du sort des Grecs, trouvait alors souverainement injuste de favoriser l'élément Hellène et de négliger les Slaves, ces fidèles sujets du Sultan ne lui ayant donné aucun motif de plainte! Tout homme de bonne foi se demandera peut-être en voyant des principes contraires, opposés, soutenus, à dix ans d'intervalle, par la même nation et par le même Ministre, si les protestations de désintéressement de la Russie, ses démonstrations en faveur des Chrétiens d'Orient peuvent être prises au sérieux.

No. 236.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 952.) *Paris, November 11, 1876.*

My Lord,

THIS morning, in obedience to the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I communicated to the Duc Decazes your Lordship's despatch to Lord Augustus Loftus, No. 554 of the 30th ultimo, on the Eastern Question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 237.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 12, 1876, 11·45 A.M.*

DUC DECAZES tells me that Chaudordy will be appointed Special Ambassador, and that he and Bourgoing are to act together at the Conference, but that the question of their relative positions towards each other is not yet settled.

He is preparing their instructions, and has made arrangements to enable them to start for Constantinople immediately when proper moment comes.

No. 238.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 12, 1876, 12·20 P.M.*

FOLLOWING speech of the Emperor at Moscow appeared in this morning's official paper:—

"Je vous remercie, Messieurs, des sentiments que vous avez voulu m'exprimer dans les circonstances politiques actuelles. La situation est aujourd'hui plus claire et je suis prêt maintenant à accepter votre adresse avec satisfaction. Vous savez que la Turquie a consenti à la conclusion immédiate d'un armistice que j'ai exigé pour mettre fin à une effusion de sang inutile en Serbie et au Monténégro. Dans cette lutte inégale, les Monténégrins se sont montrés comme toujours de véritables héros: malheureusement on ne peut accorder les mêmes éloges aux Serbes, malgré la présence dans leurs rangs de nos volontaires, dont beaucoup ont versé leur sang pour la cause Slave. Je sais que la Russie entière avec moi prend la part la plus vive aux souffrances de nos frères de religion et de race; mais pour moi les véritables intérêts de la Russie sont les plus chers de tous et je désirerais éviter jusqu'à la dernière extrémité l'effusion du précieux sang Russe. Voilà pourquoi je poursuis mes efforts pour atteindre par des moyens pacifiques une amélioration effective du sort de toutes les populations Chrétiennes de la Péninsule des Balkans. Des Conférences doivent s'ouvrir ces jours-ci à Constantinople entre les Représentants des six Grandes Puissances pour la détermination des conditions de la paix. Je désire beaucoup que nous puissions arriver à une entente générale, mais si cet accord n'a pas lieu, et si je vois que nous n'obtenons pas des garanties réelles de l'exécution de ce que nous sommes en droit d'exiger de la Porte, j'ai la ferme intention d'agir seul, et je suis certain que dans ce cas la Russie entière répondra à mon appel, lorsque je le jugerai nécessaire et que l'honneur du pays l'exigera. Je suis convaincu également que comme toujours Moscow donnera alors l'exemple. Que Dieu nous aide à remplir notre sainte mission!"

No. 239.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 12, 1875, 2 P.M.*

ONE of Count Andrassy's Secretaries has called to say, as his Excellency understands Lord Salisbury may go to Constantinople by Vienna, he hopes, as he cannot return from his mother's funeral till Friday afternoon, that his Lordship will arrange not to arrive before that day, in order that they may have some conversation on the objects of the Conference.

I shall be happy to give Lord Salisbury rooms at the Embassy.

No. 240.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 12, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 12, 1876, 12·20 P.M.*

HAVING heard that the Russian flag used to be hoisted over Tchermieff's headquarters, I telegraphed to Sir A. Kemball for information and have received the following answer from him:—

"Two Russian flags over two small dark flags, supposed to be Servian, one each side of the gateway of Tchernaieff's head-quarters, Deligrad, witnessed by surgeons of the Red Cross accompanying Colonel Lindsay and by us with telescope from extreme right of the old Turkish position; but last Wednesday both staffs were bare. Russian flag on a church-steeple at Alexinatz pulled down and Turkish flag substituted. Ball and cross uninjured."

No. 241.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 200. Political.)

Belgrade, November 3, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Prince of Servia returned to Belgrade last night.

Before leaving Paratchin, the head-quarters of the Servian army, His Highness received a telegram direct from the Russian Ambassador dated Buyukdere, the 1st instant at 3.50 P.M., conveying intelligence of the acceptance of an armistice of two months from the 1st instant by the Porte.

Similar information was received by me from Sir Henry Elliot.

It would appear, therefore, that while negotiations were progressing favourably towards the conclusion of an armistice which the Porte was willing to grant, and Servia to accept, different terms were agreed to suddenly at Constantinople under Russian dictation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 242.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 9.)

St. Petersburgh, November 6, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translations by Mr. Michell of two articles which have appeared in the Russian paper the "Golos" on the 1st instant.

For the publication of this article written by M. Jemchujnikoff and dated Neufchâtel, the "Golos" has been censured, and the sale of the paper has been prohibited for some weeks in the streets, which will entail a considerable pecuniary loss.

The article in question condemns the war policy of Russia, and asserts the right of every one to express fearlessly his opinion in favour of peace.

The second article from the "Golos" on the contrary, takes a directly opposite view, and upholds the necessity of an active continuation of the preparations for war, to ensure the attainment of Russian policy in the revolted provinces of Turkey.

The editor having incurred a fine for the publication of the former article, it must be supposed that the latter article must have been published with the sanction of the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DORIA.

No. 243.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 10. Confidential.)

St. Petersburgh, November 7, 1876.

My Lord,

THE conclusion of the armistice between the Porte and Servia has not caused the Russian Government to relax the preparations which are being actively carried on for war.

100,000*l.* sterling were paid last week by the Russian Government in part-payment for the 8,000 tons of lead which I mentioned in a telegram to your Lordship

of the 1st instant, as just purchased by the Government. It is to be brought into the country through the port of Revel.

800,000 pairs of boots for the army have been ordered.

But if such proofs were wanting to show that Russia has determined to make war against Turkey, the hostile tone of the press, the disappointment felt by a large section of society at the conclusion of the armistice, and the desire for war evinced by a great portion of the army, give grounds for this belief, unless Russia succeeds in obtaining at the proposed Conference the fulfilment of her own views with regard to the future of the revolted provinces of Turkey.

The more prudent and less enthusiastic among the well-educated class view the warlike tendency with great distrust, persuaded, as they are, that a war must be most disastrous to Russia, knowing the state of her finances and how really unprepared and unfit the country is to commence a conflict.

I am informed that the Government contemplates carrying into execution forced payments in gold of the revenue levied by the Excise, which would amount to about 7,000,000*l.* sterling per annum, and the Custom-house will be authorized to accept in payment of duties the coupons of the foreign loans; these measures, it is expected, will be put in force in January next.

Another scheme for procuring funds is a fresh issue of paper roubles. Should this plan be carried out it is believed that it will occasion a great number of false notes to be introduced into the circulation, which would give rise to the most indescribable chaos in mercantile transactions. The notes are said to be easily counterfeited, and the Treasury officers themselves could hardly distinguish between the legal and false notes.

Nevertheless, although active preparations are in progress for a campaign, it is not believed that Russia will take the field before spring.

The officers charged to report especially on the means of leading troops from Kischeneff into the Turkish or Danubian provinces stated that, at this season, such an attempt would cost the lives of half the troops engaged.

I venture to express an opinion that the Russian Government have for a length of time exaggerated the extent of popular excitement, which, doubtless, however, is great, and that with a view to the accomplishment of their ambitious designs against Turkey, by endeavouring to make it believed that the Government are powerless to restrain this national movement in favour of the Servians.

A Russian General, in daily intercourse with the Emperor, said to me last night that he strongly objected to the Emperor and Imperial family, on their return from the Crimea, making a stay of three days at Moscow, because he is fearful of the outburst of popular feeling which it may be impossible to control. The same person has more than once spoken in the same sense; and, I have thought, with the direct intention of impressing the magnitude and irresistible power of the popular will, which is well known hitherto to have been entirely subservient to that of the Emperor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DORIA.

No. 244.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 11.)

St. Petersburgh, November 7, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship an article taken from the "Golos," of the 5th instant, in reference to the statement made in the "Times" that Count Schouvaloff had, by command of the Emperor of Russia, expressed to Lord Beaconsfield the disavowal of the article attacking his Lordship's character, which was published in the same paper, the "Golos."

The present article finishes by saying that it is now incumbent on Her Majesty's Government to express their indignation at an article in the "Daily Telegraph" of the 17th October last, commencing with the words, "There are three Russias," and concluding with the words "promising to hear him harmless by her influence."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DORIA.

Inclosure in No. 244.

Précis of Article in the "Golos" of [illegible], 1876.

(Translation.)

THE "Golos" of the [illegible], 1876, makes the following remarks on the statement of the "Times," that Count Schouvaloff had, at the desire of Czar, expressed to Lord Beaconsfield the repudiation of the Imperial Government of the attack made by the "Golos" on the Prime Minister:—

"By this declaration the Imperial Government fulfilled that duty of international courtesy which the impression produced in Government spheres in England by the article of the "Golos" imposed on it.

"It is now, however, the turn of the British Government. We shall, in all probability, soon hear that Lord Augustus Loftus will, on his part, express in the proper quarter, the indignation felt by the British Government at the leading article of the "Daily Telegraph" of the 17th October, contained in the fifth and sixth columns of the fourth sheet of that journal, and beginning with the words: 'There are rather three Russias,' and ending with 'promising to bear him harmless by her influence.'"

No. 245.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 12.)

St. Petersburgh, November 7, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship two articles from the "Exchange Gazette," translated by Mr. Michell, with reference to General Tchernaieff's conduct and the declaration of war by Servia against Turkey.

The Government of Servia is condemned for having engaged in a conflict in which it was impossible for her to be victorious, and Tchernaieff is accused of undertaking a task he was quite incompetent to fulfil, but it is hoped that he is set aside and will not again be heard of in Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DORIA.

Inclosure 1 in No. 245.

Leading Article from the "Exchange Gazette" of [illegible], 1876.

(Translation.)

THANKS be to God the curtain has dropped over the frightful prologue of the tragedy of the Eastern question. Circumstances much more important than the hopeless war between Servia and Turkey may demand sacrifices still greater from us, but we shall no longer take part in such an impossible, unequal, and perfectly unnecessary slaughter from which the Slav cause can win nothing. For the injudicious declaration of war by Servia against Turkey—which was not adapted either to time or circumstances—we have been obliged to sacrifice the blood of our volunteers. . . . The complete inequality and even impossibility of the conflict which became apparent from the first was not foreseen and taken into consideration by those on whom the declaration of war depended, and who at haphazard had recourse to arms.

This senseless and meaningless declaration of war is now being justified on the ground that the Servian Government calculated on the immediate intervention of Russia. This, however, is untrue, for the Servian Government could not have entertained such expectations. To the words of the Tsar addressed to the troops last autumn after the conclusion of the Ferskoe Selo manœuvres, the programme of the policy of the Government was declared, and the purport of these words was that the blood of Russians would only be shed in defence of the honour and interest of the country. There was, therefore, no room for any misapprehension on the point.

Servia declared war not only without provocation but even against the counsels of the Emperor of Russia. Before the decided step on her part, Russian policy in the East was defined in the alliance between the three Emperors and expressed in the Berlin Memorandum.

Russia would never have resolved to violate this agreement, and Servia could not

but have been aware of this when she declared war. On what armed Russian intervention could the Servian Government then have relied? They assuredly had no grounds for depending on the stream of Russian volunteers which eventually set in. Every one in Russia knows that the flow of Russian volunteers to Servia was entirely of spontaneous origin—independent of any artificial preparation—and was the result of a general enthusiasm which possessed the whole of the Russian people, and from the palace to the hovel, from old to young, and from the richest to the poorest. What would have been the case had Russian volunteers not appeared on the scene in Servia?

Apparently the excited Chauvinistes disregarded the interests of the Servian army and people, and of the Slavonian cause. It was military glory and laurels of victory that they had in view and that excited their crazy imaginations. Why, then, has Russia been deprived of so many thousand of her brave, energetic, and devoted sons? Why were they impelled to certain and inevitable destruction, which was even fruitless so far as the Slavonian cause was concerned?

We know, of course, that war must be attended with sacrifice of life, but yours was a senseless and an impossible war. You were bound to foresee its issue which could not have been other than it proved. You were told this on all sides, but you paid no heed to the warnings, as you were dazzled by a chimera of crowns, princely titles, and fieldmarshal batons, and in your pursuit after them you continued without any pause your work of piling up the dead bodies of our volunteers, and clamouring for more and more men. Even just before the last defeat you informed us that your positions were strong, and that the enemy was getting exhausted. What has become of your strength? Where are our volunteers? Who is to be responsible for them to Russia? We call for the guilty!

Inclosure 2 in No. 245.

Leading Article from the "Birjevy Vedomosti" ("Exchange Gazette") of [illegible], 1876.

(Translation.)

PLUTARCH himself might have risen from the grave to have indited one of the telegrams which has reached us from Zemlin to-day:—

"In the struggle at Djunish the Servians lost 1,500 men and the Russians 2,500, most of whom were killed; the number of wounded is small."

What an incredible, what a monstrous fact! The Russians form only a small contingent of the Servian army which loses only 1,500 men, while out of the Russian detachment 2,500 men are put *hors de combat*, and all killed; the wounded being few!

Whose accursed and sacrilegious hand forced you, our precious heroic brethren, into this infernal fire, and kept you exposed to it until nearly all of you were smitten down by the enemy's missiles? Who was it that covertly derided your fierceness, your bravery, and your devotion? This terrible question causes your heart to shrink convulsively, but answered at last it must be in all sincerity.

It is best elucidated by the telegram which has to-day been transmitted to the "Moscow Gazette":—

"At Djunish the artillery mutinied against General Tchernaieff personally, and refusing to obey his orders retired from the field without firing a shot."

Thus, while the artillery refuses to obey the orders of the Commander-in-chief and draws off from the field, the Commander-in-chief exposes a small detachment of his volunteering countrymen to the brunt of the enemy's fire, fully conscious that the band of heroes will sooner lay their bones on the field of battle than refuse to obey him.

The ambitious man played a hazardous game, and staked on the last card the lives of his countrymen who voluntarily placed themselves at his disposal.

The card has lost!

Are we correct in the description of the dreadful fact of the wholesale slaughter of the Russian volunteers in Servia? We implore those who are able to explain it otherwise, and lead us if possible out of our error.

This is not the time to settle accounts with General Tchernaieff, but a heavy load rests on the conscience of the editors of Russian papers. For our own part, we cannot confess that we were far from communicating all the information that reached us from Belgrade, and from the Timok-Morayian army. We considered it advisable not to lower the authority of General Tchernaieff throughout Russian society at a moment when his name served as an incentive for contributions, and for the enrolment

of volunteers. And besides, the intelligence that did reach us was far from being all favourable to General Tchernaieff.

Individually, General Tchernaieff now retires to the background; in Servia he is no longer wanted. Other commanders will lead Russian troops against the Turks, and we may now sum up General Tchernaieff's activity in Servia with a view of counteracting all further influence which his name may exercise.

General Tchernayeff on reaching Servia was commissioned by the Government of that country to make a preliminary inspection of the troops and military resources of Servia, and to report on their condition. Having visited the cantonments, he represented that Servia was ready for war; whereupon war was declared.

After crossing the frontier General Tchernaieff informed his troops, in an order of the day, that they were supported by Russia, and this he did, as it now appears, without any authority.

In his great scheme of marching to Constantinople General Tchernaieff only took the first step; his second move was already a retreat to fortified lines of defence.

A few days after General Tchernaieff had reported to the Servian Government that the country was prepared for war, and immediately after his first unsuccessful venture, complaints began to arise on the score of the unprepared and inefficient condition of the Servian army. Feuilletons eventually, judiciously penned by editors, are written under the dictation of the Commander-in-chief, in which the public are informed that Servian soldiers are arrant cowards; that they hide themselves behind bushes and blow off the fingers of their left hand to avoid going into action, and in order to be drafted into hospital.

General Tchernaieff's staff places itself in open antagonism with the army under his command and with the Servian Government.

Then follows the burlesque Proclamation of Prince Milan as King of Servia by the staff of General Tchernaieff, in opposition to the wishes of the Prince and to the evident detriment of the negotiations in progress between the Servian Government and the Representatives of European countries.

Many circumstances then ensue which cannot be conveniently detailed in print,* and these are at last succeeded by a complete rout of the Servian army and the immolation of the whole force of Russian volunteers to the ambition of the Commander-in-chief. In this painful enumeration of the proceedings of the Servian Commander-in-chief we are not actuated by any desire to injure him. We do not raise any doubt as to his good intentions, but merely wish to record our opinion that General Tchernaieff has proved immeasurably below that great problem the solution of which he attempted with such rashness. We consider it necessary to point all this out in view of the impending war in which Russia will be engaged, and also deem it incumbent on us to remind Russian society of God's commandment—"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image," the frequent neglect of which is attended with incalculable and irremediable woes.

No. 246.

Mr. Doria to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 74. Confidential.)

St. Petersburgh, November 8, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 542, Confidential, of the 30th ultimo to Lord A. Loftus, I have not yet been able to obtain information in answer to the three questions regarding the supply of arms, &c., from Russia to Servia.

I take occasion, however, to mention to your Lordship that during the fair at Nisjnee Novgorod, the Governor of the town, Count Kontaisoff, was successful in raising a body of 1,000 Russian volunteers to join the Servian army. This corps actually went to Servia, and although the Russian Government was perfectly cognisant of the fact, Count Kontaisoff still holds office at Nisjnee.

The loan of 3,000,000 roubles for Servia raised in Russia, and reported in Lord A. Loftus' despatch No. 391 of the 2nd of September last, I have from very good authority was furnished by the Russian Government, although proofs such as are required in a Court of Law may be difficult to obtain to substantiate the case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. DORIA.

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* This is apparently an allusion to the rumoured misapplication of funds contributed by the Russian public in aid of the Servians.—T. M.

No. 247.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 416.)

Rome, November 7, 1876.

My Lord,

ON the receipt the day before yesterday of your Lordship's telegram of the 4th instant, I immediately addressed a note to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, of which I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy, embodying the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference to be held at Constantinople, and I yesterday afternoon waited upon Signor Melegari in order to ascertain his Excellency's views upon this subject.

After some conversation, in the course of which his Excellency said that he entirely approved the bases upon which Her Majesty's Government proposed that the discussions should be conducted, but that he should have preferred any other city to Constantinople as the place of meeting of the Conference, and that he felt some doubts as to sending a special Plenipotentiary to attend it, his Excellency authorized me to telegraph to your Lordship that the Italian Government accepts in principle the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to hold a Conference at Constantinople, promising to send to me to-day an official answer in writing to the note in which I had made to him the communication.

I asked his Excellency if he would wish me to mention in the telegram what he had stated in regard to preferring some other place for meeting of the Conference, and his hesitation as to sending a special Plenipotentiary, but he said that it would be sufficient if I stated his agreement in principle to the proposed Conference for that perhaps he should not allude to the topics just mentioned in his official note. It would depend upon the opinion of the Cabinet, to whom, of course, he must submit the proposal of Her Majesty's Government before replying to it formally in writing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 247.

Sir A. Paget to M. Melegari.

Rome, November 5, 1876.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have determined to take the initiative of proposing that a Conference should forthwith be held at Constantinople, in which all the Guaranteeing Powers and the Porte shall take part.

Her Majesty's Government would suggest that each Government should have two Representatives, and in making this communication to His Italian Majesty's Government, I have been instructed to propose, on the part of Her Majesty's Government, that the following bases should be adopted for the deliberations of the Conference:—

1. The independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

2. A declaration that the Powers do not seek for territorial advantages, exclusive influence, or commercial concessions as recorded in the Protocol signed in London on the 17th September, 1840, between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey, and in the Protocol signed in Paris on 3rd August, 1860, between the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey.

3. The terms of pacification proposed by Sir H. Elliot to the Porte, as made known to your Excellency by Mr. Malet in a Memorandum on the 23rd September.

I am instructed to add that should the powers agree to this proposal, Her Majesty's Government will at once appoint a special Ambassador to proceed to Constantinople to take part in the Conference, and, if so desired by the other Powers, Her Majesty's Government would not object to their two Plenipotentiaries joining in preliminary discussions with the Plenipotentiaries of the other five Powers, before the opening of the Conference, on the understanding, of course, that these discussions will be on the same bases as those proposed for the Conference.

In requesting your Excellency to have the goodness to inform me as soon as possible if the Government of His Italian Majesty accepts the proposal now made to them by Her Majesty's Government, I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 248.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 418. Very Confidential.)

Rome, November 7, 1876.

My Lord,

SUFFERING from a very acute attack of lumbago, which made it quite impossible for me to leave my bed, I was unable to take myself to Signor Melegari as I should otherwise have done, the note, a copy of which is inclosed in my preceding despatch No. 416, embodying the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference at Constantinople. I therefore requested Mr. Kennedy to be good enough to deliver it to Count Tornielli, and to draw his especial attention to the paragraph in which it is stated that Her Majesty's Government will have no objection to preliminary discussions between the Representatives of the Six Powers previous to the formal opening of a Conference, at which a Representative of Turkey was to be admitted, an arrangement in accordance with the suggestion made to your Lordship by Count Schouvaloff, as I had the honour of informing M. Melegari some few days ago. I also begged Mr. Kennedy to state to Count Tornielli, that as the rest of the proposition was in accordance with the views and wishes often expressed to me by the Italian Ministry, and with the general principles of policy in the East which I had always heard announced by the Italian Government, I hoped there would be no greater delay in accepting our present proposal than there had been on other occasions in accepting the proposals emanating from other Governments.

Early the next morning I received a private note from Signor Melegari, dated half-past 11 on Sunday evening, in which he states:—

"Afin d'adhérer au désir que vous m'exprimez de connaître le plus tôt possible les dispositions du Gouvernement du Roi, je m'empresse de vous faire savoir qu'une proposition aussi importante doit, à mon avis, former l'objet d'un examen approfondi de la part de tous les Cabinets. Mais, tout en me réservant de vous donner aussitôt que possible une réponse officielle et définitive, je tiens à vous dire que le Gouvernement Italien n'aura probablement pas d'objections à faire en principe à l'acceptation de la proposition Britannique pour le cas bien attendu où elle réunirait l'adhésion des autres Puissances intéressées."

As this note appeared to me to show an inclination to temporize, I determined to make an effort to see M. Melegari, and with great difficulty succeeded in dragging myself up to his Excellency's room at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs; and it was a great satisfaction to me on leaving it to be authorized to inform your Lordship that the Italian Government accepted in principle the proposal which had been submitted to them by Her Majesty's Government.

I need not trouble your Lordship with a detailed account of this interview, which at one moment was rather animated. It will suffice to say that I developed the arguments which I had directed Mr. Kennedy to make use of in speaking to Count Tornielli, and employed such others as appeared to me calculated to induce the Italian Government to take a prompt decision in this matter.

Signor Melegari at once admitted that the bases laid down by Her Majesty's Government were in conformity with the views of the Italian Government.

They had nothing more at heart, he said, than the maintenance of the territorial integrity of the Turkish dominions.

It was needless for him to say, he presumed, that they sought no territorial acquisition in Turkey, nor any exclusive commercial or political advantages. They had, in common with the other Powers, agreed to support the English conditions of pacification, and were therefore ready to do so again.

He also thought it just that a Representative of Turkey, whose interests were to be discussed at the Conference, should have a place in that Assembly; therefore, on the principles laid down by Her Majesty's Government, he had no objection to offer; but notwithstanding this, he should like to reserve his answer till he had been able to ascertain the views of the other Guaranteeing Powers.

It was a very important communication, he said, and required mature deliberation.

He had strong doubts in his own mind, he continued, whether Constantinople was the best place for the Conference to be held at; next, he was not much disposed to send a Special Plenipotentiary to attend the Conference. The Italian Government had full confidence in Count Corti.

I here interrupted his Excellency by saying that Her Majesty's Government had

also full confidence in Sir Henry Elliot, and that in announcing to him that a Special Ambassador might be sent to the Conference, had begged him to understand that this was in no way meant as showing that their trust in his Excellency as Her Majesty's Representative was in any way diminished; and I reminded his Excellency that it was in accordance with diplomatic precedent on occasions of great importance like the present to appoint a Special Representative to take part in the deliberations.

Signor Melegari went on to say that, in his opinion, the Italian Government ought to be one of the last, instead of one of the first, Powers to notify their acceptance of the present proposal. Italy was the last of the Great Powers to be admitted to the European family. He hinted with some little humour that the observations which had been made by the Italian Government at different periods during the present Eastern crisis had met with little attention; it had been suggested to them, he said, not long since, to take the initiative in proposing a Conference (the suggestion, his Excellency said, had come from Russia), but they had not been encouraged to do so, owing to the failure of their previous efforts to bring about an understanding. His Excellency also insinuated that Her Majesty's Government did not always adhere to the proposals which they themselves put forward, alluding to their acceptance of the counter-proposal of Turkey for a five months' armistice, after having themselves proposed one of a month, a statement which I of course corrected. In short, his Excellency spoke as if he did not intend to make known the answer of the Italian Government until after the other Powers had given theirs.

It was no difficult matter to combat all these arguments; I, of course did so, and said that if on the grounds which his Excellency had taken up—which were, after all, mere points of punctilio—the Italian Government intended to delay their answer, I could not conceal from him that it would produce the worst impression in England, for no one could help contrasting the hesitation now shown in accepting a proposal from Her Majesty's Government which embodied all the principles which the Italian Government professed to advocate with the alacrity which had characterized the acceptance of the Vienna Note and the Berlin Memorandum. His Excellency would, I hoped, under these circumstances, spare me for the future any more phrases as to his desire of acting with England and of England taking the initiative, for that I could not attach the least importance to them.

The discussion having continued for some little time longer, I at last said that, suffering as I was, I must beg his Excellency's permission to retire, but before doing so I should be glad to know what answer I might send to my Government, when he replied in the terms recorded in my telegram of yesterday.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 249.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 424.)

Rome, November 8, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 416 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy and translation of a note addressed to me by Signor Melegari, Minister for Foreign Affairs, in answer to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference to be held at Constantinople, which I communicated to his Excellency in my note of the 5th instant.

In this note Signor Melegari, after thanking your Lordship for the invitation, states that Her Majesty's Government being aware that the Italian Government considers that the preservation of peace is more important than anything else, cannot doubt that any proposition tending towards agreement will be favourably received by Italy.

His Excellency records his opinion that the work of the Conference as well as of the preparatory discussions might have been facilitated by the choice of a place of meeting other than Constantinople, and also that the sending of a second Plenipotentiary should be optional. Yet being unwilling to do aught to retard matters, he does not hesitate to declare that Italy will be represented in the Conference in which all the other Guaranteeing Powers shall have agreed to take part.

His Excellency concludes by saying that the bases proposed in the month of September to Turkey having been supported by the unanimous opinion of the

Guaranteeing Powers, seem fit to be adopted as the programme of the future deliberations, and he adds that the Italian Government, recognizing the great importance of the other two points laid down by your Lordship, is ready to accept them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 249.

M. Melegari to Sir A. Paget.

(Translation.)
Rome, November 7, 1876.

Sir,

IN a note of the 5th instant, your Excellency invited me, in the name of your Government, to inform you, as quickly as possible, if Italy accepted the proposition for a Conference at Constantinople, of which England has decided to take the initiative, in which all the Guaranteeing Powers, as well as the Porte, should take part, this Conference, provided other Powers wished it, should be preceded by preliminary discussions between the Plenipotentiaries of only the six Guaranteeing Powers, and these preliminary discussions, as well as the Conference which should follow, would leave the programme which, in your Excellency's note, is summed up in the three following points:—

1. Independence and integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

2. Declarations on the part of the Powers that they do not seek for territorial advantages, exclusive influence, or commercial concessions, as recorded in the Protocol signed in London on the 17th December, 1840, and in Paris on the 3rd of August, 1860.

3. The conditions of pacification proposed by Sir Henry Elliot to the Sublime Porte, and communicated to the King's Government by your Embassy in September last.

Your Excellency has, at the same time, informed me that the Cabinet of London proposes that each Government should have two Plenipotentiaries in the Conference, and that a Special Ambassador would be appointed by England to proceed to Constantinople for this purpose.

I must, in the first place, beg your Excellency to convey to Lord Derby my most sincere thanks for the important communication in question. Her Britannic Majesty's Government being aware that the King's Government considers the common interest of the preservation of peace more important than anything else, cannot doubt that we shall receive favourably any proposition tending to this end through the agreement of the six Guaranteeing Powers. Although, in my opinion, the work of an international Conference, as well as that to be accomplished in the preparatory discussions, might have been facilitated by the choice of another place for meeting, and although I am also of opinion that, sending a second Plenipotentiary to Constantinople should be optional for each Government; yet, not wishing, by putting forward objections, to retard the benefits which all are expecting from the pacification of the Turkish Provinces and the Principalities of Servia and Montenegro, I do not hesitate to declare to your Excellency that Italy will be represented in the Conference in which all the other Guaranteeing Powers shall have agreed to take part.

The bases proposed in the month of September to Turkey having been supported by the unanimous opinion of the Guaranteeing Powers, seem to us fit to be adopted as the programme of the future deliberations of the same Powers, and also respecting the other two points laid down in your Excellency's note, I wish Her Britannic Majesty's Government to know that Italy, recognizing their great importance, is ready to accept them.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) MELEGARI.

No. 250.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 426.)
Rome, November 9, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt yesterday evening of your Lordship's telegram announcing that the Queen has been pleased to appoint the Right Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to be Her Majesty's Special Ambassador to attend the proposed Conference at Constantinople jointly with Sir Henry Elliot, and to inform your Lordship that I immediately conveyed this information in a note to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 251.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 493.)
Berlin, November 8, 1876.

My Lord,

THE Turkish Ambassador presented his credentials to the German Emperor on the 6th instant, for the third time, since his appointment to Berlin.

In consequence, the German Ambassador, Baron Werther, at Constantinople, was instructed to delay no longer the presentation of his letters to the new Sultan, and has probably done so already by now.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 252.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 494. Secret.)
Berlin, November 9, 1876.

My Lord,

GENERAL VON WERDER has arrived from Livadia with a letter from the Czar to the Emperor William, who is said to be much gratified by its contents.

I have not seen the General, but I am told on good authority that he thinks the Czar's peaceful disposition has not been altered by the late events, that he is as determined as ever to avoid war and to obtain the reforms he claims for the Christian subjects of the Porte by diplomatic negotiation only. But obtain them he must; it would not be safe in the present temper of the national party for the Czar and his Ministers to be satisfied with Turkish promises only; the Secret Slav Societies require more, and if the Russian Government cannot or does not obtain guarantees, those secret societies will keep up a dangerous agitation in the country.

General von Werder thinks, therefore, that the Czar, in self-defence, will have to sanction an occupation of Turkish territory, which the Slav party in Austria will then also call upon their Government to share, a contingency the German Emperor and his Chancellor will not object to, I think.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 253.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 495.)
Berlin, November 10, 1876.

My Lord,

THE German Government, who have accepted the proposed Conference in principle, are only waiting till the other Powers have adhered, to declare their own adherence officially.

The Emperor, it appears, is not inclined to appoint a second Plenipotentiary with

the rank of Ambassador, and wishes that Baron Werther, His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, should act as sole Representative of Germany at the preliminary discussions, and at the Conference when it meets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 254.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 496.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 10, 1876.*

THE German Government have appointed Lieutenant-Colonels Mantai and Sorbeck, to take part in the military Commission for the demarcation of the armistice.

They will leave Berlin on Sunday next, and proceed to Widdin and Ragusa without loss of time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 255.

Mr. Lumley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 113. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Brussels, November 11, 1876.*

I AM informed that the Roumanian Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs, who passed through Brussels in July last, speaking of Eastern affairs, said, that for Roumania the Oriental question ends at the Danube, what goes on beyond, he added, does not concern us, and we have every reason to be satisfied with the position ensured to us by Treaty.

Since that time, however, a change appears to have come over the policy of the Roumanian Government, but this would seem to be more apparent than real; this, at least, is the opinion of a competent authority, a German banker, who, for many years has resided in Bucharest, where he has acted as Belgian Consul, and who is at present in Brussels.

In the opinion of this gentleman the change, which took place about two months ago in the policy of the Roumanian Government is due in great part to the personal ambition of Prince Charles; it seems almost incredible that the late warlike demonstrations should have taken place without sanction from Berlin, yet such would appear to be the case, and they are now believed to have been instigated entirely by Russia; the true influence of Germany having been since, undoubtedly, exercised in a diametrically opposite direction, as is evident from the speech of Prince Charles on the opening of the Chamber.

The report given by this gentleman of the state of the Roumanian army is anything but favourable; the Servian army, he said, has not shown itself to be worth much in the field, but it is infinitely superior to that of Roumania both as regards officers and men; the numbers spoken of in the papers as being ready for service are grossly exaggerated, as were the reports of the effective of the Servian army at the commencement of the campaign, and, like the Servian army, only a small portion of it consists of regular troops.

As to the financial condition of the country it is wretched, the Government has not even the means of paying its employés, much less of that of keeping up a large army, and without the assistance of a foreign country it is utterly unable to raise a loan to meet the expenses of the mobilization of the army, such as it is; there can be no doubt, he added, as to the feeling of all classes of the population, it is utterly opposed to any military intervention in Turkish affairs, while, as to the Roumanian army if it could be ever got across the Danube, it is composed of such rank cowards that it would disperse at the mere sight of the Turkish force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 256.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 954.)
My Lord, *Paris, November 12, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes informed me this morning that the French Government had determined that the Comte de Chaudordy, the French Ambassador at the Court of Madrid, should be appointed Special Ambassador to represent France, in conjunction with the Comte de Bourgoing, the French Ambassador to the Porte, in the Conference at Constantinople.

M. de Bourgoing arrived at Paris yesterday from Constantinople, and M. de Chaudardy is also here.

The Duc Decazes said that he had already requested the Minister of Marine to have a ship of war ready to convey them to Constantinople. He added that he was preparing the instructions for them, and that they would be ready to set out at once, whenever the proper moment should seem to have arrived. He added that he thought it would be well that they should start about the same time as Lord Salisbury.

The Duc Decazes expressed a hope that Lord Salisbury would pass through Paris, and a strong desire to have some conversation with him. He also said that he should be very glad to have an opportunity of presenting M. de Chaudardy and M. de Bourgoing to his Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 257.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 956.)
My Lord, *Paris, November 12, 1876.*

THIS morning, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 957 of the 9th instant, I conveyed to the Duc Decazes the thanks of your Lordship for his promptitude in communicating with Her Majesty's Government respecting the proposed Conference at Constantinople, and in informing them that he had summoned the Comte de Bourgoing, the French Ambassador at Constantinople, to come to Paris to receive instructions.

I added that the views of Her Majesty's Government were fully stated in the proposals respecting the Conference which I had made to him by your Lordship's order.

After expressing his acknowledgments for your Lordship's message, the Duc said that he was very desirous of knowing a little more precisely the meaning attached by Her Majesty's Government to the word "autonomy."

I answered that the sense in which the word was used by Her Majesty's Government was explained in the conditions of peace which had been suggested by them in September, and which were to form the bases of the Conference. I proceeded to recite to the Duke the explanation in the following terms:—

"A system of local or administrative autonomy, by which is to be understood a system of local institutions which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority. There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State."

The Duke said that he remembered that these were the terms stated in the letter in which I had communicated the condition to him in September, but that it would still be useful to him in preparing his instructions for M. de Chaudordy and M. de Bourgoing to have some fuller explanation.

It had, he said, occurred to him that the larger the amount of self-government granted to the people, the less necessity there would be for requiring guarantees from the Porte, and for the exercise of superintendence by the Guaranteeing Powers. In fact, the responsibility both of the Powers and of the Porte would be small, if the people had so large a control over the administration of their affairs as to make their happiness and prosperity mainly dependent upon themselves.

On the other hand, the Powers were, the Duke said, pledged to introduce certain reforms, and to insure the execution of them. It was by no means certain that by

leaving the provinces simply to administer themselves, any real improvement in their condition would be effected. It could hardly be hoped that in cases where a Christian or a Mussulman population predominated in districts, the majority would not oppress the minority. There appeared, in fact, to be no means of escaping altogether from the difficult question of taking security for the execution of reforms.

It had, the Duke told me, occurred to him that the institution of a sort of Tribunal at Constantinople, a sort of "Cour d'Abus," to which appeals might be made from the provinces, would best reconcile the dignity and independence of the Porte with the necessary superintendence on the part of the Powers. The Six Powers might be represented in the Tribunal by Judges nominated in something the same way as those of the Mixed Tribunals in Egypt. The Tribunal might send Commissions of its members to investigate complaints, or might even establish regular circuits at fixed intervals.

The Duke had not worked out the idea in detail; but it appeared to me that it might contain the germ of a very useful institution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 258.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13, 12·30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 13, 1876, 10·45 A.M.

PORTE has again delayed answering invitation to Conference till a further Report has been received from Musurus Pasha of a communication which he says he expects from your Lordship.

I have protested strongly against the delay.

No. 259.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 13, 1876, 10·50 A.M.

GRAND VIZIER has expressed to me his earnest desire that Her Majesty's Government would make known to the Porte the measures which it is expected to grant for the administration of Provinces. He says that if the Porte was aware of what the Powers require, it would very likely be able to grant everything, and make it unnecessary to have a Conference, which is greatly dreaded.

No. 260.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 13, 1876, 11 A.M.

THE Porte having, upon my advice, abstained from sending ships into the Black Sea, has sent them to the Upper Bosphorus.

The Lower Bosphorus is unsuitable for winter anchorage, and under present circumstances it would have been unwise to send them into the Golden Horn, within the Two Bridges; but I understand that, although the present station of the ships is within twelve miles of Constantinople, and in its police district, the Russian Embassy regards the step as a demonstration which may force its Government to extreme measures.

No. 261.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 13, 1876, 1·32 P.M.

THE Porte has requested that the Consul-General at Beyrout may be directed not to distribute an Arabic newspaper containing articles hostile to the Government. This has been done on previous occasions. Am I authorized to prevent their distribution?

No. 262.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1876, 5·25 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of 13th instant, Her Majesty's Government have explained to Musurus Pasha that they cannot concur in the objections advanced by the Porte, that other Powers would not do so either, and that as concert among the Powers is imperative and essential to pacification, Her Majesty's Government trust that the Porte will not refuse to join in the Conference.

Musurus Pasha has stated that he has telegraphed answer of Her Majesty's Government to Safvet Pasha.

No. 263.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1876, 6 P.M.

COLONEL LENNOX has reported arrival at Ragusa, but on 11th instant he had received no instructions.

Give Colonel Lennox as soon as you can the requisite information to enable him to act as Delegate.

No. 264.

The Earl of Derby to Colonel Lennox.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1876, 6·5 P.M.

YOU were right to proceed to Ragusa. Sir Henry Elliot will give you the requisite information to enable you to act as Delegate.

No. 265.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 755.) *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1876.

Sir,

IN an interview with the Turkish Ambassador on the 10th instant, his Excellency gave me, as an entirely personal and unofficial suggestion from himself, the accompanying Memorandum of the form in which his Excellency considered that the Sultan might accord administrative reforms to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I said that I would take note of his Excellency's suggestion, but did not hold out much hope that it would be acted upon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 265.

Memorandum communicated by Musurus Pasha.

[See No. 227.]

No. 266.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 13 Novembre, 1876.

My Lord,

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de la lettre que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date d'hier au sujet de la Conférence proposée, et d'informer votre Excellence que je me suis empressé d'en transmettre par télégraphe la teneur à son Excellence Safvet Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) MUSURUS.

No. 267.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, November 13, 1876, 8·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my despatch No. 590A of September 26, again call serious attention of Porte to necessity of taking precautions to prevent occurrence of further atrocities by disbanded troops.

As an armistice is in course of settlement, it is most important that all the Turkish auxiliary forces should be sent to winter quarters or their homes under command of responsible officers, and subject to proper discipline. If they are dismissed without these precautions, it is scarcely possible that numerous acts of plunder and violence should not be committed in countries through which disbanded soldiery pass.

Desire British officers on the spot to do all in their power to insure full observance of orders received by Turkish commanders on the subject.

No. 268.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, November 13, 1876.

(No. 758.)

Sir,

IN my despatch No. 590 A of the 26th September I have already instructed your Excellency to support the representations of the French Ambassador as to the necessity of precautions being taken to keep the Turkish irregular troops under proper control on their return from the seat of war.

Now that an armistice is in course of settlement I should wish your Excellency again to call the attention of the Porte to this matter. It is of great importance that the Turkish volunteers, reserves, and other auxiliary troops, should be sent to their homes or winter quarters as military bodies, under the command of responsible officers, and subject to proper discipline, and that they should not be merely dismissed at the front and left to find their own way home. In the latter case it is scarcely possible that numerous acts of plunder and violence should not be committed in the countries through which the disbanded soldiery pass.

Your Excellency will impress this matter upon the Turkish Ministers as one requiring their serious attention, and will desire the British officers on the spot to do what is in their power to ensure the full observance by the Turkish Commanders of the orders which they receive on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 269.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

Foreign Office, November 13, 1876.

(No. 608.)

My Lord,

YOUR Excellency stated, in your telegram of the 6th instant, that Herr von Bülow, on your communicating to him the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference, had informed you that he had submitted them to the Emperor and

Prince Bismarck, and that he would instruct the German Ambassador at Constantinople to attend the preliminary discussions.

In your despatch No. 495 of the 10th instant you reported that the German Government had accepted the proposed Conference in principle, and were waiting till the other Powers had adhered to declare their own adherence officially.

As the other Powers have assented, it was to be expected that Germany would now have been in a position to give her official answer; but Count Münster has informed me to-day that he has no instructions on the subject; and it not being clear, from the statement that the Conference is accepted in principle, whether it is to be inferred that the British proposal is accepted as it stands, I should wish your Excellency to inform me whether Her Majesty's Government are to understand that the German Government have accepted the Conference on the bases proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 270.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13, *at night.*)

Vienna, November 13, 1876, 3·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

A TELEGRAM was sent to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople yesterday by Count Andrassy, informing him that Austria-Hungary has accepted the English programme for the Conference, and instructing him to avoid preliminary discussion till arrival of all the Representatives.

The second Plenipotentiary has not yet been named.

No. 271.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 13, *at night.*)

Vienna, November 13, 1876, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE port of Klek has not been opened as alleged by the press, but permission has been given for the entrance of Turkish vessels to remove sick and wounded, on condition that they do not introduce fresh troops, arms, or munitions of war.

No. 272.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 14.)

Yalta, October 29, 1876.

(No. 509.)

My Lord,

IN conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's telegram of the 22nd instant, I left St. Petersburgh on the evening of the 23rd instant, and arrived here on Friday the 27th, accompanied by Mr. Egerton, Second Secretary to Her Majesty's Embassy.

I had an interview with Prince Gortchakow to-day at Orianda, a palace to the Grand Duke Constantine, at a short distance from Livadia. His Highness received me very cordially, and, after some friendly remarks, the conversation turned to the present aspect of the Eastern question.

Prince Gortchakow stated that the state of affairs was very grave. He hoped that the question of the armistice was arranged, the Porte, on the advice of Sir Henry Elliot, having yielded to the considerations which the Imperial Government had advanced in favour of the shorter term.

I here explained to his Highness that Her Majesty's Government had asked for an armistice of not less than one month, that the Imperial Government having on a previous occasion expressed a wish for a longer period, they naturally supposed that the proposal of the Porte would not meet with any objections on their part, and that consequently Her Majesty's Government had expressed their approval of the terms offered by the Porte.

On the other hand, Her Majesty's Government, I said, had no objection to the term of six weeks or two months, if proposed by the Porte; but they were not able to

take the initiative of a fresh proposal after having expressed their approval of the original term of five months offered by the Porte.

His Highness here stated that General Ignatiew had been instructed to be yielding and conciliatory on the question of the armistice.

It is evident to me that Prince Gortchakow does not wish to make the question of the armistice the ground for a rupture with the Porte, and that he looks to the question of the "autonomy of the three Provinces" as being the important deciding point of peace or war.

Prince Gortchakow expressed his anxious wish that on the arrangement of the armistice no time should be lost in organizing a Conference.

He had frankly stated the motive for which he considered the exclusion of a Turkish Plenipotentiary desirable, and he believed that they had been more or less appreciated by other Powers.

It was not desirable, he said, that a Turkish Representative should be present at a discussion among the Powers of the future status of the Christians under Turkish rule, nor that he should be a witness of the difference of opinion between the Great Powers, of which the Porte would be too likely to profit for its own advantage. He hoped, therefore, for a compromise by which the Representatives of the Six Powers alone would meet in Conference in order to develop the basis of the proposals submitted by your Lordship, and that, when they had agreed upon the proposal to be submitted to the Porte, it should then be brought forward at a Conference at which a Turkish Plenipotentiary should assist. His Highness was in hopes that this compromise would smooth the difficulties in regard to the participation of a Turkish Representative in the Conference.

His Highness then stated that Russia must "insist" on obtaining such reforms in regard to the status of the Christians in the three provinces, as would prove to be "real" ("réelles") and not mere "phrases," and that a "control" or "guarantee" must be given by the Porte for their due execution.

I inquired of his Highness whether the term "control" was meant to signify an International Commission for each province. To this he replied in the negative; observing that such an International Commission would only give rise to jealousy and wrangling among the several members of it. In reply to my further inquiry, as to the nature of the guarantee to be required from the Porte, he stated that this would be matter for the deliberation of the Representatives of the six Powers in Conference.

From certain observations which fell from Prince Gortchakow, I am led to think that he aims at a very large measure of "autonomy," comprising the withdrawal of all Turkish troops and officials from the three provinces, and leaving the administration in the hands of the Christians, under the suzerainty of the Sultan. His Highness even let fall, in conversation, the word "tribute," but without further developing his idea.

He observed, in very decided terms, that nothing less in the shape of "autonomy" would satisfy Russia, and that if the Porte should meet it with refusal, Russia was determined to impose it.

From the very decided tone in which his Highness referred to the future "autonomy" of the three provinces—applying to them the term of "vassal and tributary"—I am convinced that this will be the vital question to be discussed in the Conference, and that on its solution will depend the question of peace or war.

Prince Gortchakow informed me that General Ignatiew had had a private audience of the Sultan, subsequent to presenting his letters of credence. General Ignatiew spoke in favourable terms of the Sultan, who had expressed his readiness to meet the wishes of the Emperor Alexander as far as he was enabled to do so, and His Majesty had further stated to General Ignatiew his anxiety to be delivered from the serious embarrassments which threatened his Empire on all sides; but, from what the Prince said, it would appear that the Sultan and his Government are under the continual fear of popular excitement and religious fanaticism, which paralyzes their action, and that the dangers from within exceed, in their opinion, the dangers from without.

Prince Gortchakow considered the present state of things at Constantinople as extremely dangerous, and even as menacing to the Christian population, and he hinted that the Sultan might be obliged to have recourse to foreign support against the fanaticism of his own subjects.

I inquired from His Highness what course Austria was likely to take in regard to the question of "autonomy" for the three provinces. He was somewhat embarrassed as to answering this question, and he did so evasively, merely observing that the two

Governments were in frank communication in regard to their mutual interests, adding, "laissez nous nous entendre avec l'Autriche sur cette question," from which I gathered that he was in hopes of coming, if he had not already come, to an arrangement with Count Andrassy.

As far as I can form an opinion, Prince Gortchakow has determined to make the question of "autonomy" the deciding one as to peace or war, and that the final issue will depend as to whether the Porte can or will grant such a measure of autonomy to the three provinces as will satisfy Russia.

The decision for the Porte is a very grave one; it is—whether she will die by her own hand, or by that of an external foe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 273.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 511.)
My Lord,

Yalta, November 1, 1876.

I RECEIVED a note yesterday evening from Prince Gortchakow, to inform me that the Emperor was unable to receive me to-day, in consequence of its being the anniversary of the death of the late Empress.

I met Prince Gortchakow yesterday, and inquired whether his Highness had received any satisfactory intelligence from Constantinople. His Highness replied that he had intelligence to communicate, but he preferred that the Emperor should communicate it to me at my audience, which was then fixed for to-day. I received later from St. Petersburgh the official declaration published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," announcing that General Ignatiew had been instructed to declare to the Sublime Porte that, if within a delay of two days it did not accept an armistice of six weeks or two months, and if it did not give immediate orders to arrest military operations, the Ambassador would leave Constantinople with all the members of the Embassy, and that diplomatic relations would be broken off.

I then understood that this was the intelligence which Prince Gortchakow preferred should be communicated to me directly by the Emperor.

General Schweinitz, the German Ambassador, arrived here last night direct from Berlin. He informs me that the official answer of the Porte to the Russian ultimatum is expected to-morrow, and he stated that hopes were entertained that the armistice would be granted by the Porte if it should not be opposed by Sir Henry Elliot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 274.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 513.)
My Lord,

Yalta, November 2, 1876.

I HAD an audience of the Emperor of Russia to-day at Livadia, when His Majesty was pleased to receive me with his customary kindness and cordiality. After some gracious inquiries after my family, His Majesty at once opened on the Eastern question.

His Majesty stated that he had that morning received a telegram from Constantinople, announcing the probable acceptance of the armistice, and he read to me another telegram reporting that orders had been already sent by the Porte to their Commanders to suspend military operations. This, His Majesty observed, was very satisfactory.

On my observing on the sudden change which had taken place between the Sunday when I had seen the Chancellor and the following day, when the ultimatum was dispatched to General Ignatiew, His Majesty said that this had been caused by the intelligence he had received of the complete discomfiture of the Servian army, and his fear that it might be followed by similar atrocities as those which had occurred in Bulgaria.

His Majesty had decided on addressing an ultimatum in order to prevent a further unnecessary effusion of blood, and he observed that no one was more astonished to receive this instruction than General Ignatiew himself.

His Majesty expressed very earnestly his wish that the Conference should meet with the least delay, and that instructions should be immediately sent by the several Governments to enable the Ambassadors at Constantinople to deliberate at once on the necessary preliminaries of peace, taking as the basis the proposals which had been submitted by your Lordship.

The Emperor then, with great calmness and lucidity, entered on a retrospective view of the past negotiations. He stated that he had given every proof of his desire for peace, and that he had done everything in his power to aid in arriving at a pacific solution of the existing complications.

He had supported your Lordship's previous demand for an armistice of six weeks, which was refused by the Porte, and was followed by a mere suspension of hostilities for ten days, which proved wholly illusory. His Majesty considered that this refusal of the Porte to a collective appeal of Europe was a "soufflet" given to the Powers. He had patiently submitted from a wish not to separate from the European concert.

Your Lordship then submitted the proposals to serve as a basis for peace. To these, also, His Majesty had assented, and they were equally agreed to by the other Powers.

To these proposals the Porte had replied evasively, declining to convey her acceptance in the form of a Protocol, and notifying that a wholesale measure of reform was under consideration, which would be applied indiscriminately to the Empire at large, and which even went beyond the demands of the Powers.

On this refusal, your Lordship had, simultaneously with a similar proposal from His Majesty's Government, addressed to the Porte a demand for an armistice of not less than a month, for the purpose of enabling the Powers to deliberate on the conditions of peace. His Majesty's Government had supported this demand in conjunction with the other Powers, and to this the Porte had replied by a counter-proposal, offering an armistice of five months, which, under the circumstances, and for the reasons given by his Government, could not be supported or recommended to the belligerent parties.

Thus, said His Majesty, the Porte, by a series of manœuvres, had rendered ineffectual all the attempts of collective Europe for arresting the war and for securing a general pacification.

His Majesty then said that if Europe was willing to receive these repeated rebuffs from the Porte, he could no longer consider it as consistent either with the honour, the dignity, or the interests of Russia.

He was anxious not to separate from the European concert, but the present state of things was intolerable and could no longer be allowed to continue, and unless Europe was prepared to act with firmness and energy, he should be obliged to act alone.

His Majesty then referred more especially to his relations with England. He said he regretted to see that there still existed in England an "inveterate" suspicion of Russian policy, and a continual fear of Russian aggression and conquest. He had on several occasions given the most solemn assurances that he desired no conquest; that he aimed at no aggrandisement, and that he had not the smallest wish or intention to be possessed of Constantinople. All that had been said or written about a will of Peter the Great and the aims of Catherine the Second were illusions and phantoms; they never existed in reality, and he considered that the acquisition of Constantinople would be a misfortune for Russia. There was no question of it, nor had it ever been entertained by his late father, who had given a proof of it in 1828, when his victorious army was within four days' march of the Turkish capital.

His Majesty pledged his sacred word of honour in the most earnest and solemn manner that he had no intention of acquiring Constantinople, and that if necessity should oblige him to occupy a portion of Bulgaria, it would only be provisionally, and until peace and the safety of the Christian population were secured.

His Majesty here reverted to the proposal addressed to Her Majesty's Government for the occupation of Bosnia by Austria, of Bulgaria by Russia, and of a naval demonstration at Constantinople, where, he said, Her Majesty's fleet would have been the dominant Power. This, His Majesty thought, ought to be a sufficient proof that Russia entertained no intention of occupying that capital.

His Majesty could not understand, when both countries had a common object, namely, the maintenance of peace and the amelioration of the condition of the Christians—and when he had given every proof that he had no desire for conquest or aggrandizement, why there should not be a perfect understanding between England and Russia—an understanding based on a policy of peace, which would be equally beneficial to their mutual interests, and to those of Europe at large.

"Intentions," said His Majesty, "are attributed to Russia of a future conquest of India and of the possession of Constantinople. Can anything be more absurd? With regard to the former it is a perfect impossibility, and as regards the latter I repeat again the most solemn assurances that I entertain neither the wish nor the intention."

His Majesty deeply deplored the distrust of his policy which was manifested in England, and the evil effects it produced, and he earnestly requested me to do my utmost to dispel this cloud of suspicion and distrust of Russia, and charged me to convey to Her Majesty's Government the solemn assurances he had repeated to me.

I assured the Emperor that Her Majesty's Government were perfectly cognizant of, and fully appreciated His Majesty's pacific intentions. I observed that the proposed occupation of Turkish territory had worked a change in the public opinion of England, and had produced alarm.

I expressed a hope that the acceptance of the armistice would now enable the Powers to bring about a satisfactory pacification, and that it was of essential importance that the European concert should be maintained. I observed that the question of autonomy appeared to me as likely to offer the chief difficulty, and that, as it more directly affected Austrian interests, care should be taken not to exceed those limits which could be accepted by Austria. I said that in Bosnia and Bulgaria there was a large Mussulman and Catholic population, and mostly of the proprietory class, and their interests must be taken into account.

I then referred to the reported pretensions of Servia and Roumania to be erected into independent kingdoms. Such a measure, I observed, would be the first step towards a dissolution of the Turkish Empire in Europe. History, I said, recorded the existence in former times of a kingdom of Bohemia, a kingdom of Servia, and a kingdom of Poland; they had all disappeared, and their dissolution had been chiefly caused by internal dissensions. If the pretensions of Servia and Roumania should be now admitted, it would be the creation of so many small Polands, which very probably would drift into republics, which would neither be for the peace nor security of the neighbouring States.

The Emperor said that there was no question of establishing kingdoms of Servia and Roumania, and that it would be a folly ("une sottise") to do so.

The Proclamation of Prince Milan had been the act of the army, which His Majesty thoroughly disapproved, and in consequence His Majesty had advised Prince Milan not to visit the head-quarters. He had, however, received a telegram from the Prince excusing himself for not obeying His Majesty's advice on the grounds that duty to his country obliged him to go to his army under the present adverse circumstances.

A reference to the number of Russian volunteers in the Servian ranks induced me to observe that it had been very instrumental in producing the feverish excitement in Russia. To this, His Majesty replied that he had permitted the officers to go provided they left the Russian service, and that he had hoped by so doing to calm the agitation ("de jeter de l'eau froide" was His Majesty's expression). His Majesty added that a great many Russian officers had fallen, and that the enthusiasm for the Servians had very much calmed down.

The Emperor then said that he would now sum up the general observations he had made in the following points:—

1. The armistice which he hoped had been accepted.

2. The immediate meeting of a Conference, the principal object of which was to agree upon the introduction of such reforms in the three Provinces as will safeguard the interests of the Christian populations, and give them that autonomy as may be necessary for that purpose. And,

3. That the Porte shall give effective guarantees for the execution of these reforms.

His Majesty then took leave of me in the same cordial and gracious manner in which he had received me, stating that he hoped to see me at dinner that evening.

In closing this report it is my duty to add that the audience, which lasted above an hour, has imbued me with a deep conviction of the disinterested policy of the Emperor in regard to these Eastern complications, of his sincere and loyal wish to avert war, and of his earnest anxiety that nothing may occur which may produce any disturbance of the amicable relations now existing with England, on the maintenance of which His Majesty places the highest value.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 274.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 514. Most Confidential.)
Yalta, November 2, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my previous despatch, I think it my duty to inform your Lordship that in my conversation with the Emperor to-day, His Majesty, whilst speaking of the distrust of his policy entertained in England, referred with deep emotion to his daughter expressing the pleasure it had given him to see the Duke of Edinburgh, and the comfort it had been to him to witness their happiness, and with tears in his eyes, said,—"Is it likely that I should entertain views hostile to her adopted country, which might produce a rupture between the two nations?"

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 275.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 516.)
Yalta, November 3, 1876.

My Lord,

AFTER dinner yesterday at Livadia, the Emperor informed me that he had received intelligence from Constantinople, announcing the official acceptance by the Porte of the armistice demanded by General Ignatiew.

His Majesty observed that it was a proof of the successful result of a little firmness.

In speaking of the future status of the three Provinces, I took an opportunity in conversation with His Majesty to refer to the stipulation contained in your Lordship's proposals for peace, to the effect "that there was no question of creating a tributary State or States."

His Majesty made no observation in reply.

In the course of conversation which took place at my audience of the Emperor yesterday, and which is reported in my despatch No. 513 of yesterday's date, I have omitted to mention the two following observations of His Imperial Majesty which are of interest and importance.

In speaking of the status of the Christians in the Ottoman Empire, His Majesty observed, that by the Treaty of Kutchuk-Kainardji, Russia had enjoyed the exclusive right of protecting their interests. By the Treaty of Paris this exclusive right was abolished, and the protectorate of the Christians was committed generally to Europe. His Majesty stated that since 1856 Europe had not fulfilled this mission, and it was in consequence of her failure to do so that the present complications had arisen.

The other statement to which I have referred was with regard to the future of the Turkish Empire. In the course of conversation, reference was made to the possible eventuality of a dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, when His Majesty emphatically declared that in any such event, he should assuredly not take on himself the responsibility of deciding what should replace it, "C'est la grande Europe qui devrait alors resoudre cette question."

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 276.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 517.)
Yalta, November 3, 1876.

My Lord,

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW called on me yesterday charged by the Emperor to express to me the satisfaction he had derived from the audience I had had of His Majesty on that morning.

I took the opportunity to express a hope to His Highness that, in treating of the question of autonomy, care should be taken not to exceed the actual necessities required, and to restrict the demands within such limits as would be acceptable to Austria.

His Highness replied in the following words:—

"Je m'en charge et je vous garantis qu'il n'y aurait pas de rupture entre l'Autriche et la Russie."

From the confident tone in which His Highness spoke, I cannot but believe that there must exist some secret understanding or engagement either between the two Sovereigns or the two Governments of a nature to solve any difficulty or differences of opinion which might arise between them, or that Prince Gortchakow is so assured of the full support of Germany, that he considers that he can overcome by persuasion any opposition of Count Andrassy.

I inquired of Prince Gortchakow whether there had been any special object for the mission of General Schweinitz, the German Ambassador, to Livadia. His Highness replied that he had only brought a renewal from the Emperor of Germany of the assurances of his support.

In referring to the difficulties which might attend the solution of the question of autonomy, Prince Gortchakow stated that if, in the Conference about to be held at Constantinople, Russia should be in a minority, General Ignatiew would record his proposals in a Protocol and withdraw from the Conference.

I foresee that on this question there will be a great divergence of views and opinions. It is of essential importance that the European concert should be maintained, and that Europe should not be divided into two camps. This can only be avoided by a spirit of conciliation on all sides, and a common understanding among the several Powers that mutual concessions must be made and mutual sacrifices borne for the attainment of a common end.

The question of autonomy is one that affects Austria more directly than England, and I consequently conceive that the Austrian Government ought to be allowed the leading part in its solution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 277.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 519. Confidential.)
Yalta, November 4, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE thought it desirable, both for my own responsibility and for future reference, if required, to have an official confirmation of the assurances given me by the Emperor of Russia in my audience of His Majesty on the 2nd instant. I accordingly called this morning on Prince Gortchakow, and read to him my despatch No. 513 of the 2nd instant, reporting His Imperial Majesty's conversation with me.

His Highness stated that it very correctly reported the views and opinions which His Majesty had told him, Prince Gortchakow, that he had expressed to me, and his Highness requested me to allow him to communicate it to His Majesty.

I willingly agreed to his Highness' request, and left a copy of my despatch in his hands for that purpose.

There was only one alteration which the Prince suggested, and which at his request I made. In referring to the Russian proposal for the occupation of Turkish territory, I had stated in the original text that the proposal made to Austria was "to occupy Bosnia and the Herzegovina."

Prince Gortchakow said that the proposal to Austria was merely to occupy Bosnia and not the Herzegovina; and his Highness explained the motive for not including the Herzegovina, was in case of occupation by the Austrian and Russian troops to place a neutral zone between the two armies, in order to prevent the possibility of any collision between them.

The explanation given of this incident by Prince Gortchakow is interesting, as I have been under the impression that the original proposal to Austria included the occupation of both Provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 278.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 520. Confidential.)

Yalta, November 4, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE had some conversation here with a person of high rank and influence, who is known for his admiration of England, and everything English; and who is most anxious for the maintenance of a good understanding between England and Russia.

He says that the present Eastern question is viewed by the whole Russian nation, from the highest to the lowest, as one of religion and humanity; and that in this double capacity it has touched that sensitive chord which has vibrated through the whole nation.

This feeling in favour of the Christian Slavs he described as so powerful—so national in its origin and its aim—that the Emperor could not risk to oppose the current; and that if His Majesty, from his strong love of peace, should be induced to forego military action—if necessary—the nation itself would go to war for the protection of their Christian co-religionists.

He said no financial, or any other consideration, would deter the nation from pursuing a course which they conceived to be one of a religious duty; nations, like individuals, when moved by passion, could not be controlled by reason, and were impelled forward like a mighty torrent, heedless of obstruction, and striving only to gain the object in view, without any consideration of the cost at which it could be obtained.

This, he said, was the present state of public feeling in Russia. He likened it to the age of the Crusades, observing that the moment had come when the Slavonic race, amounting to 100,000,000, were determined to liberate their Christian brethren from the Mussulman yoke.

He spoke of Germany as the friend and ally of Russia, and as engaged to give entire support to Russia in the Eastern question; he observed that Russia had, in 1866 and in 1870, rendered valuable service to Germany; and he quoted an expression attributed to Prince Bismarck, "that it was bad diplomacy to show ingratitude. He observed that last year the Emperor of Russia had prevented Germany attacking France; but if Germany now gave her support to Russia, no such restraint would be put on her by Russia; and he added that should Prince Bismarck think fit to annex Holland, Russia, from a sense of gratitude, would offer no opposition.

He then said that he hoped England would act in co-operation with Russia. There was every motive, political and otherwise, to engage her to do so, for her own interests and for those of Europe. England would then reap with Russia the gratitude of the Christian eastern races, and augment her influence with them. It was an opportunity which might not easily occur again, and, if once lost, would not be regained. Moreover he expressed a great anxiety that the present occasion should be profited of to establish a cordial understanding between the British and Russian nations. It would be the means of dispelling that mist of distrust which has so long disturbed the friendly feelings between the two countries for their mutual disadvantage. He feared that if England should now continue an antagonistic policy to Russia there would arise in this country an "Anglophobia" far surpassing what had hitherto been known in England under the name of "Russophobia."

He said he had written continually in this sense to his relations and friends in England; and he had done so from his love for England.

I have thought it my duty to report to your Lordship the foregoing opinion of an independent Russian nobleman, influenced by no other consideration than a love for his own country, and for England.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 279.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 216. Political.)

Cettigné, October 30, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 5 of the 6th instant, instructing me to speak to Prince Nicholas upon the subject of the mutilations of Turkish soldiers left wounded on the battle-field of Medun; and desiring me to express to His Highness the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government in reference to these outrages on humanity.

I will take the first opportunity of conveying these sentiments to the knowledge of the Prince. In the meantime, however, I trust that it will be a satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government to know that these mutilations have already formed the subject of conversation between His Highness and myself; and that the Prince has assured me that their perpetration has caused him extreme distress, and has elicited from him the strongest expressions of displeasure, and the most peremptory orders to his soldiers to refrain from their commission.

From all that I have seen of the Prince I am convinced that it would not be easy to find a more humane nature, and that His Highness is not only alive to the discredit which these atrocities reflect upon the Montenegrin cause, but has a real disgust at such barbarous additions to the horrors of war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 280.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 217. Political.)

Cettigné, November 2, 1876.

My Lord,

AT 9 o'clock this morning Prince Nicholas received direct from General Ignatiew a telegram announcing that the Porte had agreed to an unconditional armistice of two months.

Count Andrassy telegraphed this information yesterday to Colonel Thömmel, and M. Melegari did the same to M. Durando. M. Ceccaldi, the French Agent, has this evening received the announcement from the Due Decazes.

The Prince sent immediate orders to all his Commanders in the field to suspend hostilities, and at 2 o'clock this afternoon all the Turkish prisoners here, except the officers, were told that they were at liberty, and were sent to Shablyah, at the head of Lake of Scutari. These prisoners have, however, enjoyed the fullest liberty since they have been at Cettigné, thronging the streets of the town without let or hindrance, and fraternising with the Montenegrins in the most cordial manner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 281.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 218. Political.)

Cettigné, November 4, 1876.

My Lord,

PRINCE NICHOLAS informed the Foreign Agents yesterday afternoon that, in spite of the armistice, Fort Spuz continued to fire upon the Montenegrin positions.

M. Yonine, in a tone and with a manner significant of the disposition with which the Russians regard the armistice, said that he had urgent instructions to report to General Ignatiew the minutest infraction of the armistice by the Turks.

MM. Ceccaldi and Durando having been appointed by the Due Decazes and Signor Melegari to act as on the part of France and Italy, in the necessary arrangements for the delimitation of the belligerent positions, agreed to telegraph at once to Turkish head-quarters in Albania and the Herzegovina, to request the Turkish

commanders to enter at once into communication with the Montenegrin officers delegated by the Prince.

An Austrian staff officer is on his way hither from Trieste, to take part in these arrangements.

The Russians seem to intend abstracting from any similar participation; and M. Youine was clearly disconcerted at the promptitude with which the French and Italian agents here entered upon the discharge of their functions.

In the presence of my colleagues, the Prince expressed to me his surprise that I had not been to see him upon the subject of the armistice, as they had done. I explained to His Highness, that I had yet received no communication from your Lordship with regard to it; and I promised that as soon as I had anything to tell him I would not fail to ask for an audience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 282.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 219. Political.) *Cettingé, November 4, 1876.*

My Lord,

THE line separating the Montenegrin and Turkish positions during the armistice, as proposed by the Prince, passes from the frontier at Ragusa through Trebingé, Szaslap, Bilek, and Gatzko to Fotscha. These points are occupied by the Turks, but the line is broken at one place by a Montenegrin position at Kocito, which His Highness will continue to hold.

The Prince also will not listen to any proposition respecting the provisioning of Nichsich by the Turks.

On the Albanian side the frontier will be the Montenegrin boundary line, the plain of the Moratscha remaining open. The district of Kutchi will, however, be considered as within the Montenegrin lines.

The demarcation thus proposed by the Prince, under Russian advice, and against the recommendation of the Austrian Agent to allow the provisioning of Nichsich, is, therefore, the strict *status quo*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 283.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 51. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, November 3, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that attempts have been made here to induce the Christians to sign a mazbata (declaration), expressing their content with the present *régime*, and protesting against any European intervention in the affairs of the province; but, as far as I can ascertain, this has proved a failure, as the Christians, though stating that they desire no change of nationality, said they could not conscientiously declare that they were content with their present circumstances.

Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman informs me that, "according to secret instructions sent from Constantinople," the same attempt has been made in the Herzegovina, but had not succeeded.

If it be true, however, that this has been done by "instructions" from the Porte, I should not be at all surprised if the authorities managed to send to Constantinople some such document with plenty of Christian signatures, but no importance should be attached to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 284.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 57. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, November 3, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch, Political, No. 48 of October 5th, I have now the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch I have to-day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, regarding the statements made by Canon Liddon and Mr. McColl of the impalement of Christians in Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 284.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

Bosna Serai, November 3, 1876.

Sir,

I HAD imagined that Canon Liddon and Mr. McColl would have been convinced long ere this, that their statements regarding the impalement of the Christian insurgents in Bosnia was not founded on facts, and that their credulity had been grossly imposed on. I have, however, just received all the correspondence on the subject lately published in the "Times," and, to my profound astonishment, I see that Mr. McColl, in a letter from Paris of October 4, not only persists in the veracity of his statement, but adduces the evidence of Bishop Strossmayer, who "said it was all quite true, with this addition, that women as well as men were impaled. One woman he said was impaled when she was near her confinement."

I need not repeat all the reasons against the probability of these statements given in my despatch of the 5th October, but I have again spoken to my colleagues on the subject, and one and all have agreed that such cruelties could not have occurred without our having heard of them, and that the reverend travellers, unable, in this land of falsehood and intrigue, to distinguish truth from fiction, or the motives with which lies are told, had been the victims of a monstrous joke.

My Austrian colleague, has Vice-Consuls at Sivno, Banialuka, Britchka, and he states that it is impossible to believe that such atrocities could have been perpetrated without some of them reporting it, or without a whisper of it even having been breathed in the Slav newspapers. He thinks, also, that Bishop Strossmayer's words have been entirely misunderstood, and were perhaps referring to what took place in ancient times; and, at my request, he writes to-day to the Bishop to ask an explanation on the subject, which I shall transmit to your Excellency as soon as it arrives. I suggested to my Austrian colleague that if Bishop Strossmayer had said what he is reported to have done, he should ask him to substantiate his assertion by particulars, as to where, when, and by whom, these cruelties were committed, so that there should be no doubt as to the truth, and that the parties should be brought to punishment.

After much reflection, however, the matter is, I think, as clear as possible. Near most Bosnian farmhouses there are stakes, such as Mr. McColl describes, around which the haricot beans are fixed up to dry, with something above them to keep off the birds. At the time of Mr. McColl's voyage down the Save it is probable that most of the beans had been garnered, but a portion might have been left on one of the stakes which attracted his attention. This, on being pointed out to some practical joker amongst the officers of the steamboat, with its accidental likeness to a body, together, perhaps, with the previous conversation of the travellers, suggested the hoax, which, on seeing that it was seriously accepted, was kept up till the end of the journey. All the subsequent confirmation by Bishop Strossmayer or others I take to have been the result of misunderstanding and preconceived conviction. Nothing but the most ample proof will convince me of the truth of these gentlemen's statements. Impalement was, thirty or forty years ago, a very common mode of execution, but for the last twenty years, not even in the wilds of Mesopotamia, much less in Europe, have I ever heard of a single instance of this old barbarous custom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 285.

Mr. Morier to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 146. Confidential.)

Lisbon, November 8, 1876.

My Lord,

WHEN I called this afternoon on Senhor Corvo he told me that M. de Glinka had just left him, and that he had been more than usually explicit in his language respecting the policy of his Government. As I had the honour to observe in my despatch No. 134, Most Confidential, of 20th September last, M. de Glinka has the reputation of being kept accurately *au courant* of the intentions of the Russian Government, at least of the views which that Government from time to time desires should be taken by the public of those intentions, and his outpourings to Senhor Corvo, which are always so timed as to be immediately afterwards communicated to the Foreign Representatives who come to the Foreign Office on Wednesday afternoons, have in consequence a certain kind of barometrical value.

On the present occasion M. de Glinka's language had lost the deprecatory tone which had characterized it before, and was very warlike and determined. There was no longer any lamentation over the popular tide that was forcing the Emperor's hand, and driving Russia into unknown seas. But quite the contrary. Russia had her programme, and having now come forward with it, would not swerve either to the right hand or to the left till it had been fully carried out. She meant to obtain autonomy in the sense she attached to the word, for Bulgaria, Bosnia, Herzegovina. She was completely *d'accord* with Germany, and the relations between the two Governments had never been more intimate. In Russia's programme, however, there was nothing to frighten Europe. She had no intention of taking Constantinople. Germany would not consent to this ("l'Allemagne n'y consentirait pas").

The impression produced upon Senhor Corvo's mind was that M. de Glinka wished him to understand that Russia and Germany had come to an understanding in virtue of which Russia was to have *carte blanche* to do what she pleased so long as she did not depass certain well-defined limits.

Talking of the attitude of the other Powers, M. de Glinka said Italy was full of ambitious schemes, and was urging on Greece to contribute to the general conflagration, in the hope of securing for herself out of the smoking ruins some portion of the Dalmatian littorale. This, he said, was the true meaning of the bad blood stirred between Italy and Austria, and not any arrangements between Italy and Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

No. 286.

Mr. Edwardes to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, November* 14.)

(No. 211. Confidential.)

Buda-Pesth, November 9, 1876.

Sir,

THE conclusion of the armistice by the Porte, averting, as it is held to do, for the present at least, a rupture between Russia and Turkey, can hardly be said to have been received with great satisfaction in this country.

For some months the Hungarians, it would appear, have been nursing the hope that the time had arrived for avenging the invasion of their country in 1848 by the Russians, and they consider, in the event of a rupture between Austria-Hungary and Russia, brought about by an attack of the latter on the Turkish Empire, that, with their military resources, and the present strength of the army, supported, as they are confident they will be in such an eventuality, by an alliance with England, success would certainly be on their side.

But they openly allow that, with the present condition of their finances, it will be difficult for them to support, for more than a year or two at the longest, the expense of maintaining such a large military force as is now organized; and it is to this knowledge that may partly be attributed the feeling, almost amounting to one of regret, that any arrangement should have been arrived at which may temporarily delay such an outbreak of hostilities as above alluded to. They believe that whatever arrangements of pacification in the East may be made on this occasion, such a war must shortly follow, and that at no time will they be better able to resist or even to attack Russia than at the present.

Although the Magyar element in the army is proportionately small, they entertain no doubt but that the regiments formed from the Slav populations will prove as efficient as the remainder of their forces; and I have heard it remarked that the Slav contingent of the army would be employed, in case of necessity, against the attack of another enemy, if such should present itself in the South.

It can hardly be believed that the strong desire for war that prevails now in this country is mainly attributable to any great feeling of sympathy for Turkey. Hungary looks upon Russia as her natural enemy, and would be very ready to attack her as such; but it is not difficult to discern, under cover of this hostile feeling, a hope that, besides gratifying her desire for revenge, a war with Russia would give Hungary an excuse, at least, for her present financial and other difficulties.

Failing an outbreak of hostilities, these can hardly but increase, and it is perhaps this knowledge that has given rise to the expression of feeling, as war must inevitably ensue, that Hungary, being better prepared for it now than she may be later, has not received with very great enthusiasm the news of the conclusion of any steps that may avert further hostilities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. EDWARDES.

No. 287.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 14.)

(No. 959.)

Paris, November 13, 1876.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 933 of the 6th instant, I inclosed a copy of a Memorandum reciting the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference at Constantinople which I had sent to the Duc Decazes on that day.

That Memorandum gave the substance of the telegraphic instruction which I had received from your Lordship on the subject.

I have since had the honour to receive your Lordship's written despatch No. 946 of the 4th instant, recording the proposals in question, and I have to-day sent a copy of it to the Duc Decazes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 288.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 14.)

(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, November 14, 1876, 2·30 P.M.

THIS day's official journal publishes text of circular despatch from Prince Gortchakow to Russian Representatives abroad to be communicated to foreign Governments. It recapitulates efforts of Russia and other Powers in interest of peace to obtain serious guarantees for Christians in Turkey, and to establish concert of European Powers, and adds that in the meantime Porte has been exciting Mussulman fanaticism, crushing its Christian subjects, and that authors of atrocities are still unpunished, and that similar atrocities continue throughout the Empire. Under these circumstances Emperor has thought necessary to mobilize part of his army, as His Majesty is determined to attain, by every means in his power, object traced by concert of Great Powers. His Majesty does not desire war, and will do his possible to avert it, but is determined not to desist till principles recognized as equitable, humane, and necessary by all Europe, and energetically supported by public feeling in Russia, have been fully carried into execution under sanction of efficient guarantees.

No. 289.

Telegraphic Summary of Statement by Greek Foreign Minister.—(Communicated by M. Gennadius, November 14, 1876.)

INTERPELLÉ hier à la Chambre sur la ligne politique que le Cabinet compte suivre, je me suis exprimé à peu près en ces termes: La marche que nous avons suivie jusqu'à présent démontre suffisamment celle que nous suivrons, si la Représentation Nationale veut bien continuer de laisser en nos mains la direction des affaires de l'Etat. Nous avons été partisans de la politique de la paix, et nous ne cesserons de l'être, à moins que le cours des événements ne nous force à adopter une autre ligne de conduite; or, c'est en prévision de cette dernière éventualité que nous avons jugé et jugeons nécessaire de préparer les forces militaires du pays. Cette préparation ne doit donc pas être considérée comme un indice de tendances et de desseins belliqueux; elle doit être simplement regardée comme une mesure de prévoyance adoptée en vue de nécessités possibles. En attendant, nous espérons que l'Europe, se basant sur la justice, et ayant en vue d'établir une paix durable en Orient, acceptera des mesures efficaces et propres à atteindre ce double but, et que par là elle nous rendra plus facile à nous-mêmes la persévérance dans le dessein que nous avons formé et poursuivi dès l'origine, et dans lequel nous tenons à persévérer. Nous avons grand besoin de cet appui moral pour ne pas nous départir de la politique de la paix; en effet je manquerai de franchise si j'essayais de dissimuler qu'il serait malaisé, pour ne pas dire impossible, que le Royaume Hellénique puisse demeurer impassible et inerte lorsqu'il s'agit des destinées de la Grèce asservie. Ce qui lie la Grèce esclave et la Grèce libre, ce n'est pas seulement la communauté de la race, et de la langue, et des mœurs, et des traditions nationales; c'est encore le sentiment d'une dette sacrée contractée par la Grèce libre envers celle qui ne l'est pas. Car la Grèce libre n'a jamais perdu ni ne perdra le sentiment et la mémoire de ce fait, que la liberté de l'Etat Hellénique actuel est le produit des efforts et des sacrifices communs de tout l'Hellénisme. Ainsi donc aucune autorité, aucun pouvoir ne se trouvera qui ait assez de force pour imposer à la Grèce libre la patience et la tranquillité en présence des injustices que l'on commettrait au détriment de la Grèce esclave.

No. 290.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 14, 1876.*

COUNT ANDRASSY has been prevented by indisposition from proceeding further than Pesth, where his physicians wish him to remain for two days. It is believed here that he will therefore return to Vienna as soon as he can.

No. 291.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 14, 1876.*

YES, German Government have accepted the Conference in principle and only wait for the adherence of all the other Powers to declare their adherence officially.

German Emperor will not, however, appoint a second Ambassador. *Vide* my despatch No. 495 on the 10th instant.

No. 292.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Stuart.

(No. 103.) *Foreign Office, November 14, 1876.*

Sir,

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon, and communicated to me the telegram of which I inclose a copy,* giving the substance of a statement

* No. 289.

made in the Chamber by the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs as to the policy of the Greek Government in view of the present state of Turkey.

M. Gennadius repeated to me the observations which he had made to me on previous occasions as to the expediency of extending to the Greek provinces of Turkey any reforms or concessions that may be granted to the insurgent districts. He added, however, a remark which I had not heard from him before, to the effect that his Government were becoming seriously alarmed at the designs of the Sclavonic societies. These now openly avowed that they aimed at the creation of a Sclavonic State, including in its limits districts in which the majority of the population were of Greek race.

This, M. Gennadius said, made it more necessary than ever that the claims of the Greek subjects of Turkey should be properly represented.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 293.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

(No. 58.) *Foreign Office, November 14, 1876.*

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 29 of the 23rd ultimo, reporting a conversation that took place between M. Debains and M. Bratiano and yourself on the subject of Roumanian armaments, and the course to be pursued by the Government of Prince Charles, should the neutrality of Roumania be infringed, I have to approve the language which you held on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 294.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

(No. 59.) *Foreign Office, November 14, 1876.*

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 23 of the 19th ultimo, reporting your conversation with M. Jonesco on the subject of M. Bratiano's recent mission to Livadia, I have to instruct you to express to the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Government of Prince Charles will continue to observe a policy of neutrality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 295.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 762.) *Foreign Office, November 14, 1876.*

Sir,

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the communication which you made to Safvet Pasha upon receiving Mr. Marsh's letter respecting the state of affairs in the neighbourhood of Yamboli, as reported in your despatch No. 1182 of the 20th ultimo.

I have also to request your Excellency to inform me whether you have considered the suggestion made by Mr. Baring in his Report of the 18th ultimo, as to the necessity for a Committee of Inquiry north of the Balkans.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 296.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 763.) *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE much pleasure in sanctioning the payment of a special allowance of 100*l.* a-year to Mr. Baring for his knowledge of the Turkish language, as recommended by your Excellency in your despatch No. 1191 of October 24.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 297.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 14, 10 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 14, 1876, 3:30 P.M.

I RETURNED here this morning. Shall dispatch messenger Ball on Thursday or Friday after seeing Prince Gortchakow.

No. 298.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 44. Political.) *Aleih, October* 30, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting that the good feeling which had previously existed between the Mussulmans and Christians of Syria shows signs of diminishing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 298.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir H. Elliot.

Aleih, October 27, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the good feeling which of late has existed between the Mussulmans and Christians of Syria has, during the last month, shown some signs of diminishing, owing to the turn the negotiations for the settlement of the existing difficulties have taken.

The agitation that has recently taken place in England in consequence of the Bulgarian atrocities, has also tended to excite the Mussulmans, who have in some degree lost their faith in the support they expected the English Government would afford to Turkey.

Beyond a few isolated quarrels amongst the lower classes of the population, I have not heard of any case in which the public peace has been seriously threatened; but it is, nevertheless, an undoubted fact that the harmony which reigned a few weeks ago no longer exists, and the uneasiness with regard to the future has of late considerably increased amongst all classes, who are anxious that some settlement should be speedily arrived at, as all interests are suffering in consequence of the present uncertainty which keeps the public mind in a state of agitation and irritability.

The Lebanon continues, however, to enjoy the same tranquillity which I have mentioned in my former reports, and I am informed that the Christians of Sidon are talking of seeking refuge in the mountain should any serious fanatical demonstration render such a step necessary.

This is a proof of the confidence felt in the present administration of the Lebanon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 299.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 194. Political.) *Belgrade, October* 31, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship by telegraph the loss by the Servian army on the 29th instant, of Djunis, and their other important positions about Deligrad in Morava Valley.

The greatness of this military disaster is hardly realised here yet, but it appears to have been much more conclusive than is admitted in official quarters, and to palliate its effects a variety of rumours have been set in circulation, such as the immediate intervention of Russia, assistance on the part of Roumania, and the arrival of a considerable Russian detatchment of armed men.

No doubt exists that the Prince of Servia sent off a telegram to the Emperor Alexander, imploring his assistance, and that he may have made likewise some communication to the Prince of Roumania, but no message was delivered on the part of himself or his Government to any other foreign Agent here, except M. Kartzoff, who went to the Palace at night on the 29th, and the Prince left for headquarters at a very early hour on the following morning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 300.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 197. Political.) *Belgrade, November* 1, 1876.

My Lord,

PRINCE WREDE was so kind as to communicate to me this morning a telegram from Count Andrassy stating the acceptance by the Porte of the Russian proposal of an armistice for two months, and for two further terms of six weeks if required.

Prince Wrede was informed by M. Ristich that Servia was quite prepared this time to accept this arrangement.

I abstain from seeing any member of this Government until I receive a confirmation of the terms agreed upon at Constantinople, from Her Majesty's Ambassador there.

In the meantime intelligence has been received by my Russian colleagues from Livadia announcing that General Ignatiew had been instructed to say that he would take his departure if an armistice was not conceded by the Porte within forty-eight hours.

Bills conveying the news have been printed and posted at the corners of streets by the authorities to make the people continue to rely on Russian protection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 301.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 79.) *Scutari, November* 4, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that official notice was received this morning from the Porte by the authorities here and at Podgoritza that an armistice has been concluded between Turkey and Montenegro and Servia, but no mention is made in the communication of the length of time the armistice is to last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 302.

Major-General Walker to Lord Odo Russell.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 15.)

(No. 78.) *Berlin, November 13, 1876.*

My Lord,

I CONCLUDE that your Lordship has been informed by Herr von Bülow that Military Commissioners will be dispatched from Berlin for the purpose of assisting in defining the line of demarcation between the Turkish and Servian-Montenegrin armies, and that they will proceed to Ragusa.

General von Kameke informs me that he has desired these officers to make the acquaintance, under his introduction, of Colonel Lennox, whom he supposes to be *en route* for the same destination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BEAUCHAMP WALKER,
Military Attaché.

No. 303.

Memorandum communicated by Baron Brincken, November 15, 1876.

THE German Government consent to the English programme for negotiations at Constantinople, and have authorized accordingly the Ambassador, Baron von Werther, to take part there at the deliberations.

No. 304.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15, 11·30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 15, 1876, 9 A.M.*
(Private.)

PLEASE inform me as soon as possible when, and also by which route, Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary proceeds to Constantinople; also, whether I am to leave any one in charge here, and whom?

No. 305.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 15, 1876.*
(Strictly Confidential.)

I HAVE been assured to-day, on apparently good authority, that one of the Austrian Ministers has said that the Emperor told him two days ago, that Austria-Hungary is happily in a position which will enable her to remain neutral in the event of a war between Russia and Turkey.

No. 306.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 15, 1876, 2·10 P.M.*

DIRECT Consul-General at Beyrout not to distribute Arabic newspapers referred to in your telegram of the 13th instant, but report circumstances of the case and send translations of the articles complained of by the Porte.

No. 307.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15, 2·10 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November 15, 1876, 11·56 A.M.*

THE official acceptance of the Conference by the German Government has been telegraphed to German Ambassadors in London and at Constantinople.

No. 308.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 15, 1876, 11·40 A.M.*

I HAVE told Sir A. Kemball that, after the demarcation of the positions for the two armies near Alexinatz, it will not be necessary for him to accompany the Delegates along the southern and western frontiers of Servia and into Bosnia, and that he can entrust that duty to Major Gonne.

I should be glad to be informed whether your Lordship thinks it necessary that Sir A. Kemball should remain at the Turkish head-quarters to watch over the observance of the armistice till Major Gonne can return there. The point might perhaps be left to his discretion.

No. 309.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 15, 1876, 5 P.M.*

AFTER review here to-day, Emperor addressed his staff and officers of the Guards. Referring to mobilization, His Majesty remarked that he hoped it would not soon be the turn of the Guards to mobilize. He publicly thanked Grand Duke Nicholas for the efficient state of the Guards, and announced that he was to command the active army, and that he would leave St. Petersburgh with the best wishes of all for the success of His Imperial Highness and his army. To-day's official "Gazette" prohibits the exportation of horses along western frontier of Russia, extending prohibition to Black and Azoff Seas until further notice.

No. 310.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 707.) *Foreign Office, November 15, 1876.*

My Lord,

BARON VON DER BRINCKEN informed me to-day that the German Government consent to the English programme for the negotiations at Constantinople, and have accordingly authorized the Imperial Ambassador, Baron von Werther, to take part there in the deliberations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 311.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 83. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, November 15, 1876.*

Sir,

IN the course of conversation with me to-day the Persian Minister alluded to the present state of the Eastern question, and asked me what course Her Majesty's Government would advise Persia to take in regard to it. He said that it was impossible that his country should not be deeply interested in the course of affairs, and it was a question whether they could remain in the attitude of indifferent spectators to the struggle which seemed not unlikely to ensue between Turkey and some of the Powers.

He said he would be glad to receive any suggestions I might think it right to make as to the policy which his Government should pursue.

I told Malcom Khan that I had no difficulty in giving the advice he asked for. It seemed to me that for the present, at all events, the policy of Persia was to remain strictly neutral. It was possible, I said, that Russia might press the Persian Government to take part against Turkey in the event of war, and might hold out inducements to them for that object. I felt sure, however, that the Shah's Ministers would have too much sense to be won over to such a course. Persia, I said, could not be called upon to interfere for the protection of Christians in Europe against a Mahommedan State, nor could I conceive that a determination on her part to maintain strict neutrality could offer cause of resentment to any other country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 312.

Mr. Jerningham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 16, 11 A.M.)

Darmstadt, November 16, 1876, 8 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

BARON STAROK, Minister for Foreign Affairs here, informed me confidentially last night that Count Lamornwray [*sic*], Italian Minister at Berlin, who is here for a day, told him he had good reason to believe that Prince Bismarck was decided to pronounce himself very shortly in the question of Turkey and Russia.

I send your Lordship the intelligence for what it is worth.

No. 313.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, November 16, 1876, 4·48 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Government are greatly surprised at not receiving the Porte's answer about the Conference. They cannot believe that after the urgent manner in which they have pressed it on the acceptance of the Porte as the only alternative left for the averting of war, the Porte will refuse, and the delay in the acceptance is becoming both unfriendly to Her Majesty's Government and dangerous to the preservation of peace. If this last chance is allowed to pass Her Majesty's Government will be compelled to withdraw all support and countenance from the Porte in future negotiations.

No. 314.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 16, 5·57 P.M.)

Therapia, November 16, 1876, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent following to Mr. Monson:—

"I have received your telegram to Sir A. Buchanan.

"Arrangements about provisions for Nichsich ought to be made between Turkish Commanders and the Prince of Montenegro.

"General Ignatiew is telegraphing to the Prince to facilitate it.

"I see no reason against Delegates meeting at the house of the Russian Consul."

No. 315.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

Foreign Office, November 16, 1876.

(No. 540.)

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 418 of the 17th instant, marked Very Confidential, reporting what took place at an interview which you had had with M. Melegari on the subject of the proposed Conference, and to which that Minister authorized your Excellency to state that the Italian Government accepted, in principle,

No. 311 A.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15, *at night.*)

Constantinople, November 15, 1876, 11·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HOW should repayment be made of Sir A. Kemball's expenses?

He had to provide himself with horses, tents, and other necessaries, for which he paid.

No. 311 B.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 15, *at night.*)

Vienna, November 15, 1876, 8·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Monson, dated Ragusa, to-day:—

"The Military Delegates will hold their first formal sitting on Saturday.

"The provisioning of Nichsich—not of the garrison, but of the population of the town—will be one of the first questions.

"Is this a question upon which the Delegates have, by their instructions, the power to decide?

"The British Delegate, as the senior officer, will probably assume Presidency of the Commission, if it be necessary to appoint a President.

"Is there any objection to Commission meeting at the Russian Consulate?"

No. 314*.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 16.)

Constantinople, November 16, 1876, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

VERY good accommodation has been secured for Lord Salisbury at an hotel lately opened, which is the best here, but two of the gentlemen will probably have to be lodged elsewhere.

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the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve of your proceedings in this matter, and of the language held by your Excellency as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 316.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Payet.

(No. 541.) *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 416 of the 7th instant, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the note which you addressed to the Italian Government, and a copy of which is therein inclosed, embodying the proposals of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference on the affairs of the East.

I am, &c,
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 317.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 766.) *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Blunt's despatch No. 84 of the 1st instant respecting the Bulgarian women and children who have been carried away from Batak, and who are supposed to be detained at Nevrocop and other districts of the Vilayet of Salonica, I have to request your Excellency to approve the steps taken by Mr. Blunt for the restoration of those poor people to their homes.

I have also to instruct your Excellency to make a strong representation to the Porte respecting the conduct of Ali Bey, and of the other subordinate officers of the Pasha of Salonica. It is most urgent that those officers should be positively instructed to render all the co-operation and support which it is in their power to give.

Her Majesty's Government will take another opportunity of marking their sense of the disregard which has been shown to the representations of your Excellency with respect to the redress of the outrages inflicted on the Christian population at Batak and the other places mentioned in Mr. Baring's Report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 318.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 768.) *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1876.

Sir,

YOUR telegram of the 15th instant has been received, and, in reply, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it may be left to Sir A. Kemball's discretion to decide whether or not he should remain at the head-quarters of the Turkish army to watch over the observance of the armistice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY

No. 319.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 769.) *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are greatly surprised at receiving no answer from the Porte about the Conference.

They cannot believe, after the urgent manner in which they have pressed it on the the acceptance of the Porte as the only alternative left for the averting of war, that the Porte will refuse it, and the delay in the acceptance is becoming dangerous to the preservation of peace, as well as unfriendly to Her Majesty's Government.

If this last chance is allowed to pass, Her Majesty's Government will, in future negotiations, be compelled to withdraw all support and countenance from the Porte.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 320.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 495. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1876.

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and said that he had come to discuss in a confidential manner a question which was naturally one of great interest to both our Governments, namely, what course should be pursued in the event of Russia carrying into effect the purpose that had frequently been ascribed to her, that of occupying with a military force some portion of the Turkish Empire. His Excellency intimated that any such step would be viewed with disapprobation and anxiety by his Government; but in this I understood him to be expressing his personal opinion, and not to be speaking under direct instructions from his Government.

Some conversation followed between us, which was understood on both sides not to be of an official character. The substance of what I stated to Consul Beust was, as follows:—

I said that Her Majesty's Government, like that of Austria, would object in the strongest manner to any such military occupation as that to which he had adverted, and that in the event of such an occupation being threatened I agreed with him that it would be desirable that a frank and unreserved exchange of opinion should take place between our two Governments. It seemed to me, however, impossible to make any more definite statement than the above at the present moment, and this for two reasons.

In the first place, however much we might disapprove of the occupation under any circumstances of a Turkish Province by Russian troops, still, in determining the course to be taken in regard to it, something at least would depend upon the conditions under which it might occur, and on the degree of provocation which might have been given by the Porte.

My other reason was one which, with his Excellency's long experience in England, he would easily understand, namely, that the English Government necessarily depends upon the support and co-operation of Parliament. Parliament, I said, would regard with the utmost suspicion, and would not improbably visit with censure, any engagement entered into by the Executive which might have the effect of involving the country in war without the opportunity of having been given for a full expression of public opinion through the Representatives of the nation upon the necessity or propriety of such a course.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 321.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received November* 16, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 16, 1876, 6·15 P.M.

OFFICIAL answer to the invitation to the Conference will not be given till Saturday afternoon, as a Grand Council has to pronounce upon it.

There is, however, no doubt of its acceptance.

No. 322.

Mr. Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 16, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, November* 16, 1876, 7·10 P.M.

I LEAVE for Constantinople on the 18th. I have told Mr. Freeman to come and take charge of this Consulate as more important at present than Mostar.

No. 323.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 1209. Confidential.) *Therapia, October* 26, 1876.

My Lord,

THE late equivocal policy of the Italian Government appears to be the result of a deep-seated distrust of Austria which has for some time been visible.

The Turkish Minister at Rome informed the Porte that the Italian Government suspected that of Austria of a project of occupying Bosnia with a view to its ultimate annexation, which would be injurious to Italian interests, and the Italian Minister here received instructions to speak in the same sense to Safvet Pasha.

If I am not misinformed, M. Melegari has shown a feverish apprehension of designs on the part of Austria, for which there was no ground, and the recent talk of the claim of Italy upon the Tyrol may probably be traced to this cause.

I have further good reason for believing that M. Nigra has been personally very desirous that his Government should enter into an understanding with the Russian Cabinet by which, in the event of a rupture of the latter with Austria, it should support the pretensions of Italy on the Trentino.

The language of General Ignatiew favours the supposition that the understanding of his Government with Italy is perfect, and that they can count upon her voice in any difference that may arise with other Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 324.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 1213.) *Therapia, October* 30, 1876.

My Lord,

AT a meeting of the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers, General Ignatiew informed us of the progress of the negotiations between himself and the Porte for the conclusion of an armistice, and he communicated to us the project, of which a copy is herewith inclosed, which had been drawn up, with some modifications, from a form which he had himself suggested.

If his draft had been adopted exactly as he had given it, the question would, he said, have been settled; but he could not agree to some of the alterations introduced by the Porte, and he had marked on the margin of the paper he had given us the modifications that he must require.

The first of these is the exclusion of the words "Servia and Montenegro" after the mention of the theatre of hostilities to which the armistice is to apply; and I, in

* Repeated to Embassies.

common with all my colleagues, considered the omission asked for by the Russian Ambassador to be desirable.

The second change required by General Ignatiew deprives the arrangement, as your Lordship will see from the inclosure, of the absolute character of the prolongation to be given to the armistice at the expiration of the first term if the negotiations for peace should not then be concluded.

Although the distinction is far from unimportant, I feel so little doubt of the Porte's acceptance of General Ignatiew's formula, that I considered myself justified in telegraphing to your Lordship that the arrangement had very nearly been come to.

Shortly after I had sent my telegram, General Ignatiew sent to say that there had been an inaccuracy in the version he had given to us of the amendment that he had proposed to the Porte, which ought to have been as marked in the inclosure as "corrected version."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 324.

Porte's Project for an Armistice.	*General Ignatiew's Modifications.*
UNE longue incertitude étant nuisible aux intérêts commerciaux, industriels et financiers de toute l'Europe et préjudiciable à la prompte conclusion d'une paix durable que toutes les Puissances désirent, un armistice est conclu à dater du . . . . . sur tout le théâtre [de la guerre en Serbie et au Monténégro], et cet armistice durera jusqu'au . . . . Décembre.	des hostilités,
A la suite de cette décision des délégués seront nommés de la part des Puissances Médiatrices, et envoyés immédiatement sur les lieux pour procéder aux opérations de démarcation.	
Si, contre toute attente, une paix durable n'était pas conclue jusqu'à l'expiration du délai ci-dessus indiqué, la durée de l'armistice [sera prolongée de six autres semaines sans que dans l'intervalle aucune des deux parties puisse se permettre de reprendre les hostilités.	
A l'expiration de ce second délai l'armistice sera prolongé de deux mois à moins que les Puissances Médiatrices décident entre elles la reprise des hostilités].	

Original Version.

pourrait être prolongée selon les nécessités de la négociation, et l'accord qui interviendrait entre la Sublime Porte et les Puissances garanties.

Corrected Version.

pourrait être prolongée si la marche des négociations en démontrait la nécessité.

No. 325.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1214. Confidential.)
Therapia, October 31, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a confidential report from Mr. Sandison of the account given by Safvet Pasha of what passed at General Ignatiew's private audience of the Sultan.

I would draw your Lordship's attention to the assurance given by the Ambassador that he was not the bearer of an ultimatum from his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 325.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.)
Therapia, October 29, 1876.

Sir,

SAFVET PASHA gave me to-day an account of General Ignatiew's audience of the Sultan.

His Majesty began the conversation by telling his Excellency that he felt perhaps more anxious than anybody to see the immediate conclusion of peace in order that he might direct his special attention to the reforms and other domestic matters which it was hoped would largely contribute to the general welfare of his subjects.

The General said, in reply, that all the Powers wished sincerely for peace, and that this was the principal reason which had induced the Emperor to urge for an armistice of six weeks' duration as being most calculated to lead to that result. Russia, he went on to say, was greatly interested in the re-establishment of peace in the Sultan's dominions inasmuch as the effect of the present troubles recoiled upon Russia, who was sincerely anxious for the prosperity of the Ottoman Empire and for the establishment of friendly relations proper to neighbouring States. The Sultan answered much in the same language, expressing the hope that the conclusion of peace will strengthen more than ever the ties of friendship which have hitherto existed between Russia and Turkey; in reply to which the General said he now felt satisfied that such a good understanding would also lead to mutual confidence in the good intentions of the two countries.

The General's idea, Safvet Pasha observed, in thus alluding to "mutual confidence," and in saying that Russia would do all in her power in order to bring about the conclusion of peace, was to make the Sultan place full reliance upon her exertions for the cessation of hostilities by means of the six weeks' armistice.

Before taking leave of the Sultan General Ignatiew begged to assure His Majesty that he was not, as rumour said, the bearer of an ultimatum, the object aimed at by his Government being but peace and the tranquillity of Turkey.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 326.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1219.)
Therapia, October 31, 1876.

My Lord,

WHEN I called yesterday on Safvet Pasha he gave me the inclosed paper as containing the form in which the Porte had decided to agree to the armistice.

I remarked that, as it differed considerably from that communicated by General Ignatiew, I thought it likely that the Ambassador would take exception to some parts of it, and especially to the concluding paragraph about the insurgent bands in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had not been in the first draft, and which I regretted to see now introduced.

Safvet Pasha having answered that the whole document was strictly in conformity with an understanding come to between General Ignatiew and the Grand Vizier after a very long conversation, I said that, if this was the case, I had no objections to offer, and, after leaving the Porte, I went up to Buyukdere in company with the Italian Minister to call upon the General, when, notwithstanding the assurances of Safvet Pasha, it was not without surprise that I found him, on the whole, well satisfied with the document, the only parts of it to which he appeared seriously to object being the proposal that a Turkish delegate should be named along with those of the Powers for the arrangement of the armistice, and the term of eight days allowed to the insurgent bands to quit the country.

His Excellency would have preferred the omission of all mention of the insurgents, but he showed no inclination to insist upon it, provided a month instead of a week were allowed for their departure.

I pointed out that the statement that the armistice was to be concluded under the guarantee of the mediating Powers would require to be altered, as I was not in a position to give, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, a pledge for its execution, by which they might be called upon to take measures against either of the parties which failed to observe it.

This expression had apparently either escaped General Ignatiew's observation,

or, perhaps, it may have been seen by him with satisfaction as affording a ready pretext for the intervention of his Government upon some alleged breach of the armistice by the Turks; but he said that he entirely agreed with me in considering that it ought to have been stated that the armistice would be concluded under the mediation, and not under the guarantee of the Powers, and although, for his part, he would have accepted the words as they stood, it might be better to have them altered.

We agreed that we should both write to Safvet Pasha, calling his attention to the expression, and also to urge that a longer period than a week should be given to the insurgents to quit the country, some provision of this sort being, in the opinion of the Porte, indispensable on the assumption, whether correct or not I am unable to say, that the bands are composed entirely of foreigners.

I inclose a copy of the letter which I, in consequence, addressed the same evening to Safvet Pasha.

There was, therefore, good reason for believing confidently that a perfect agreement would be come to, in the course of the following day, between the Porte and the Russian Ambassador, and it was arranged that the different Representatives should meet in the afternoon, when it was hoped that General Ignatiew would be able to announce to us this wished-for result.

When we met, however, we found that the position had totally changed, and that General Ignatiew had received peremptory instructions to insist upon an unconditional armistice of six weeks or two months, without any arrangement for its renewal; to object altogether to what was proposed about the insurgent bands, and to inform the Porte that, unless these conditions were accepted, and all hostilities immediately suspended, he was to break off the relations of the two countries, and to leave Constantinople, with all the members of the Embassy, within forty-eight hours.

General Ignatiew said that two days ago he had received this ultimatum desiring him to leave if hostilities were not at once stopped, and had taken upon himself to delay presenting it, but the proposal of the Porte with regard to the insurgent bands had been considered by his Government so unreasonable that they had ordered him at once to carry out his instructions.

Nevertheless, he had not yet done so, and had confined himself to writing a private letter to Safvet Pasha, informing him what his Government expected, but if a fully satisfactory answer was not received that evening he must send it in.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S. *November* 1.—The ultimatum was sent in last night, before, I believe, the answer of the Porte was received.

H. E.

Inclosure 1 in No. 326.

Form of Armistice proposed by Porte.

POUR mettre un terme aux maux de la guerre un armistice de deux mois est conclu sous la garantie des Puissances Médiatrices à partir de . . . . ; par conséquent les hostilités cesseront dès ce moment sur tout le théâtre de la guerre; des délégués seront nommés de la part des Puissances Garantes ainsi que de celle du Gouvernement Ottoman et envoyés immédiatement sur les lieux des hostilités en Serbie et au Monténégro pour procéder aux opérations de démarcation. Si, contre toute attente, une paix durable n'était pas conclus jusqu'à l'expiration de ce délai et si le cours des négociations l'exigeait un nouveau délai de six semaines sera établi. Après quoi l'armistice pourrait être encore prolongé de six autres semaines selon ce qui serait convenu entre la Sublime Porte et toutes les Puissances Garantes. Les bandes qui se trouvent en dehors des lignes de démarcation, tant en Bosnie qu'en Herzégovine, et dans d'autres localités, et qui troublent constamment le repos et la tranquillité de ces provinces, seront sommés par le Gouvernement Impérial de quitter le pays dans l'espace d'une semaine; dans le cas où ils ne se conformeraient pas à cette somnation, ils seront poursuivis par les troupes Ottomanes.

Inclosure 2 in No. 326.

Sir H. Elliot to Safvet Pasha.

Mon cher Ministre, *Therapia, le 30 Octobre,* 1876.

DANS la pièce que vous avez eu la bonté de me donner cet après-midi il est dit "qu'un armistice de deux mois est conclu sous la garantie des Puissances Médiatrices."

Je pense qu'il doit y être une erreur de rédaction, et que vous avez voulu dire, "conclu sous la médiation des Puissances Garantes."

Mon Gouvernement s'est déclaré prêt à offrir sa médiation pour un armistice, mais jamais de la garantir, et je ne saurais prendre sur moi de l'engager à donner une garantie qui nous obligerait à intervenir activement dans le cas où l'une ou l'autre des parties belligérantes n'observerait pas l'armistice.

Avec cette correction à faire dans la rédaction de la pièce je ne vois rien à y objecter, sauf le terme de huit jours qu'on accorde aux bandes insurgées pour quitter le pays, qui est évidemment matériellement insuffisant, et qu'il sera necessaire à porter à trente jours.

Une fois d'accord sur les principes de l'armistice il faudra prendre des mesures immédiates pour arrêter une effusion de sang inutile, et j'espère que la Porte donnera des ordres à ses commandants militaires de suspendre toutes opérations dès qu'elle aura reçu la notification que la Serbie les aurait acceptés.

(Signé) HENRY ELLIOT.

(Translation.)

My dear Minister, *Therapia, October* 30, 1876.

IN the paper which you were good enough to give me this afternoon, it is stated that "an armistice of two months is concluded under the guarantee of the Mediating Powers." I think this must be an oversight, and that you meant to say "concluded under the mediation of the Guaranteeing Powers."

My Government have declared their readiness to offer their mediation for an armistice, but never to guarantee it; and I do not undertake to bind them to give a guarantee which would oblige us to intervene actively in the event of the non-observance of the armistice by one or other of the belligerents.

With this correction in the wording of the paper, I see nothing in it to object to, excepting the term of eight days granted to the insurgent bands to leave the country, for it is evidently materially insufficient, and must necessarily be increased to thirty days.

An agreement upon the principles of the armistice once arrived at, it will be necessary to take immediate steps to prevent useless bloodshed, and I hope that the Porte will give orders to its military commanders to suspend all operations as soon as it has received the notification of their acceptance by Servia.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 327.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1223.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 31, 1876.

SAFVET PASHA has asked me to convey to your Lordship the earnest hope of the Porte that there may not be a Conference.

I said that I had heard little on the subject of late, but that it seemed to be understood among the Powers that a Conference should be held, and I reminded him that on two occasions within a few years there had been Conferences which the Porte had equally disliked, but which had not proved injurious.

Safvet Pasha said that, although this was true, a Conference had never been held at a period when the Powers were so unfavourably disposed towards Turkey.

It had been proposed that the Porte should not be represented at a Conference to be held at Constantinople, and that in fact some Governments seemed to intend that the Conference should be a sort of European Tribunal by which a sentence should be pronounced against Turkey "par contumace."

I said that there was no reason for believing this proposal to have found general favour among the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 328.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1227.)
Therapia, November 2, 1876.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH by the Porte's acceptance of the Russian ultimatum the prospect of an immediate rupture between the two countries may have been averted, the grounds for hoping that it may ultimately be avoided still appears very faint.

General Ignatiew says distinctly that if the Porte will not now make peace, that is to say, accept a peace upon the conditions that Russia requires, his Government is resolved to enforce them by war.

He hopes, he says, that the Powers, by unanimously letting the Porte understand that they were decided upon its accepting the terms upon which they might agree, may save his Government from the necessity of taking the step to which they may otherwise be forced.

I remarked that the line of action which had just been pursued by his Government showed how difficult it was for other countries to proceed in concert with them.

It had been agreed between the Cabinets that the Porte should be urged to grant an armistice, and under their united pressure it had consented to one upon conditions, which many, if not the majority, of them considered satisfactory.

The Russian Government, however, took a different view, and without any regard to the opinion of others, at once proceeded to act independently of them, and went the length of threatening to break off relations with Turkey, and to proceed to hostilities if the Porte did not forthwith comply with their demands.

If a similar course were to be followed in the difficult negotiations which have to be undertaken for the conclusion of peace the harmonious action of the Powers would be an impossibility.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 329.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1229.)
Therapia, November 2, 1876.

My Lord,

GENERAL IGNATIEW told me this morning that he had been directed by his Government to inform the Porte that they would consider any excesses committed by the Turkish troops as a violation of the armistice, and one of the Secretaries of the Russian Embassy was desired this afternoon to tell me further that the General had orders at once to leave Constantinople upon any violation of it occurring.

A ready pretext for a rupture appears thus to be prepared.

I may also mention confidentially to your Lordship that yesterday, while the acceptance of the ultimatum was still uncertain, one of the Secretaries of the Russian Embassy observed that it signified very little what the answer was, as his Government had quite decided upon a rupture of relations with Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 330.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1231. Most Confidential.)
Therapia, November 2, 1876.

My Lord,

IN the course of conversation this morning with General Ignatiew upon the ultimatum that had been sent to the Porte by his Government, he assured me that it was Prince Bismarck who had recommended them to adopt that course.

He could guarantee the accuracy of what he advanced, for he had himself seen the telegram at Livadia when it arrived, and his Government then resolved to adopt the advice.

I remarked to my colleague that I understood from this that he had returned from Livadia with instructions to present his ultimatum.

He answered that he had brought it with him with a discretionary authority to withhold it if he thought desirable.

This is a rather different version from that which he had previously given to my colleagues and myself when he told us on Tuesday that he had received the ultimatum two days before, and that he had taken on himself the responsibility of withholding it, but had now received imperative orders to execute his instructions.

It is impossible to doubt that he had kept his Government fully informed of the progress of his negotiations with the Porte, or that they were perfectly aware that his own proposals had been accepted with very trifling modifications upon which an understanding could easily be arrived at.

It is evident enough that the sudden sending in of the ultimatum was decided upon in the hope that by an immediate cessation of hostilities and the acceptance of an armistice the fall of Alexinatz would be averted.

The capture of the Servian positions at Junis made it certain that the occupation of Alexinatz and Deligrad would soon follow, and the only hope of saving the Servians and the Russian auxiliary troops from this mortification lay in the chance of stopping the Turks before they had time to reap the fruits of their success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 331.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1232.)
Therapia, November 2, 1876.

My Lord,

AS far as can be judged from the language of the Russian Ambassador, there is little likelihood that during an armistice the influx of volunteers into Servia will cease or even diminish.

In a conversation which he had the other day with Safvet Pasha when he accused the Porte of wishing for an armistice of six months in order that the final conclusion of peace might be deferred for that time, the Turkish Minister repudiated any such intention, and added that the Porte could not wish to commit such an act of folly as it knew that before six months were passed there would be in Servia a Russian army of 60,000 men.

General Ignatiew promptly answered that he need not talk of 60,000 men, for he would guarantee that the number would be nearer 300,000; and he has held similar language to others.

Till recently there was a disposition to speak slightingly of the volunteers as unauthorised adventurers, of whom the number had been greatly exaggerated, but the tone of the Embassy is quite changed, and as much interest is now shown in them as though they were Imperial Russian troops engaged in an avowed national war.

At General Ignatiew's request, I have to-day telegraphed to Sir A. Kemball, asking him to endeavour to get the names of any Russian officers among the prisoners in the late engagements, and to recommend them to the kind treatment of the Turkish commanders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 332.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 1233.) *Therapia, November* 2, 1876.

My Lord,

LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS, by his telegram to your Lordship of yesterday's date, reported that the German Ambassador stated that hopes were entertained at Livadia that the armistice demanded by General Ignatiew would be granted by the Porte if not opposed by me.

Your Lordship is aware of the utter groundlessness of the insinuation, not made now for the first time, that I encourage the Porte to resist the concessions demanded of it, and that I have, on the contrary, frequently gone beyond your Lordship's instructions, although, I hope, not beyond your wishes, in recommending a compliance with the requirements of Russia.

I am not much given to dwelling upon my own proceedings, but it must be perfectly well known to the Russian Government, that if up to this time a rupture with this country has not taken place, it is principally owing to the influence I have exerted in recommending a prudent and conciliatory line of conduct to the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 333.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 1242.) *Constantinople, November* 2, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1219 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of the ultimatum addressed to the Porte on that day by General Ignatiew on the subject of the armistice, together with a copy of Safvet Pacha's reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 333.

General Ignatiew to Safvet Pasha.

Buyukdéré, le $\frac{14}{31}$ *Octobre,* 1876.

LE Soussigné, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies est chargé de faire à son Excellence Safvet Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, la communication suivante :—

Les événements qui se passent depuis un an dans quelques provinces de l'Empire Ottoman et qui ont abouti à la guerre entre la Turquie et les Principautés de Serbie et de Monténégro ne pouvaient laisser indifférent le Cabinet Impérial. Ils avaient trouvé un vif écho dans la nation Russe, unie par des liens multiples et des traditions séculaires aux populations Chrétiennes de la Péninsule Balcanique. Sa Majesté l'Empereur a partagé les sympathies de son peuple et s'est employé d'accord avec les autres Grands Cabinets au rétablissement de l'ordre et de la paix. Les Puissances Garantes étant tombées d'accord pour poser comme bases de pacification le maintien du *status quo ante* dans les Principautés de Serbie et du Monténégro, les opérations militaires qui y sont poursuivies actuellement par les troupes Ottomanes constituent une effusion de sang inutile.

Le carnage ayant pris ces derniers jours des proportions qui blessent le sentiment d'humanité sans pouvoir amener aucun résultat, l'Empereur mon auguste Maître ne saurait le tolérer plus longtemps, en présence des lenteurs qu'éprouvent les négociations pour la conclusion d'un armistice restreint.

Le Soussigné est donc chargé de déclarer à la Sublime Porte, au nom de Sa Majesté, que si, dans l'espace de deux fois vingt quatre heures après la remise de la présente note, un armistice effectif et inconditionnel de six semaines à deux mois, embrassant tous les combattants, n'est pas conclu et des ordres péremptoires ne sont point transmis aux Commandants des troupes Ottomanes pour arrêter immédiatement

toutes les opérations militaires, il devra quitter Constantinople avec tout le personnel de l'Ambassade Impériale.

Le Soussigné prie son Excellence Safvet Pacha d'agréer l'expression personnelle de sa haute considération.

(Signé) IGNATIEW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 333.

Safvet Pasha to General Ignatiew.

Le 1 *Novembre,* 1876.

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, a eu l'honneur de recevoir la note que Son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies a bien voulu lui adresser en date du 31 Octobre.

Le Soussigné se fait un devoir empressé de déclarer avant tout que la Sublime Porte attache toujours le plus grand prix au maintien et à la consolidation des relations amicales qui existent si heureusement entre les deux Empires voisins, et qu'elle ne saurait avoir rien de plus à cœur que d'éviter tout ce qui serait de nature à y porter atteinte.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan déplore plus que personne les calamités de la guerre et l'effusion de sang. Il a cru donner une preuve de ses dispositions sincèrement pacifiques en proposant d'assigner en Serbie et au Monténégro un délai d'une longue durée à l'armistice désiré. Toutefois pour donner une nouvelle preuve de ses sentiments de conciliation et de sa déférence aux vœux exprimés par le Cabinet Impérial de St. Pétersbourg, comme par les autres Grandes Puissances, la Sublime Porte consent à la conclusion d'un armistice pur et simple de deux mois à partir d'aujourd'hui même. Elle vient en conséquence de transmettre des ordres aux Commandants des troupes Impériales pour arrêter immédiatement les opérations militaires sur tout le théâtre de la guerre. Pour ce qui est des détails relatifs à cet armistice le Soussigné se réserve de les régler plus tard d'accord avec votre Excellence et avec MM. les Représentants des autres Grandes Puissances Médiatrices.

En ayant l'honneur de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de Son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, le Soussigné saisit, &c.

No. 334.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 1243. Confidential.) *Constantinople, November* 6, 1876.

My Lord,

UPON General Ignatiew's arrival here from Livadia the Sultan sent one of the officials of the Palace to congratulate him on his return.

The Ambassador, in expressing his acknowledgments for this message, alluded to the difficulties in which His Majesty found himself, declaring them to be in no way of Russian creation, but produced entirely by Great Britain.

His Government had never thought of asking for autonomy for the insurgent provinces, but the proposal had been made by Her Majesty's Government; and the hopes of the people having been raised, Russia could not now allow them to be disappointed.

Other insinuations in the same strain were made against England, which was represented in the most unfriendly light, while Russia was sincerely desirous of the welfare of the Empire.

I am in a position to guarantee to your Lordship the accuracy of this report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 335.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1244.)
Constantinople, November 6, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Jerusalem respecting the alleged abduction of a Bulgarian girl by a Turkish soldier.

It appears that the inquiries instituted by the Governor of Jerusalem and Mr. Moore into this matter have hitherto been fruitless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 335.

Consul Moore to Sir H. Elliot.

Jerusalem, October 19, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram relative to the case of abduction mentioned in the "Times," on the authority of Bishop Gobat, I have the honour to state that, as I reported by telegraph, the Bishop states, his information on the subject does not extend beyond having heard a group of people talking about it under his window.

It appears, however, that the report that a strange Christian woman had been brought to the country has existed here for two or three months.

I am continuing my own inquires, and the Governor, in consequence of orders from the Porte, is also investigating the matter, and has promised to let me know the result of his researches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL MOORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 335.

Consul Moore to Sir H. Elliot.

Jerusalem, October 28, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th instant, I have the honour to report that the Governor of Jerusalem has addressed me a note stating that, after diligent search and inquiry on his part, no trace has been found of the abducted Bulgarian female said to have been brought to this district. His Excellency goes on, therefore, to request me to invite Bishop Gobat to write to the "Times" to contradict the story.

I have conveyed Faid Bey's request to his Lordship, who has so far complied, as to send a telegram to the above-named journal, stating that he has no personal knowledge of the matter and that the report has not been verified.

The non-success of the Governor's researches is not in itself conclusive of the falsity of the report in question; fear of the consequences on the part of those who might be able to give information, or the bought connivance of the authorities, might easily defeat the object in view.

I pursue my own inquiries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NOEL MOORE.

No. 336.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1245.)
Constantinople, November 6, 1876.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1094 of the 2nd ultimo, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a further report from Dr. Dickson, containing an additional

certificate upon the mental condition of the ex-Sultan, signed by the physicians who drew up the certificate of the 20th of September.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 336.

Dr. Dickson to Sir H. Elliot.

Constantinople, October 29, 1876.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Sultan having expressed a wish to have a medical opinion with regard to the mental condition of the ex-Sultan Murad, the physicians who drew up the certificate, dated Sptember 20th, have now added a postscript to that document, worded as follows:—

"En nous référant à notre rapport du 20 Septembre dans lequel nous avons déclaré que, d'après notre conviction, le malade en question est incurable, nous y ajoutons par la présente déclaration comme corollaire que, si même, contrairement à toute prévision, son état s'améliorait dans un avenir éloigné, l'ex-Sultan Murad ne jouirait pourtant jamais de la plénitude de ses facultés intellectuelles et d'un jugement sain, afin de pouvoir reprendre la direction soit de ses propres affaires, soit des affaires publiques.

"*Constantinople, le 24 October*, 1876.

(Signé) "Dr. Akif.
"J. de Castro.
"E. D. Dickson, *Médecin de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre.*
"A. Marroin, *Médecin Sanitaire de France.*
"Dr. L. Mongeri.
"Mühlig, *Médecin de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne.*
"Dr. Sotto, *Médecin de l'Ambassade d'Autriche-Hongrie.*
"W. Temple, M.D."

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. D. DICKSON.

No. 337.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1247.)
Constantinople, November 6, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the identic instruction agreed to by the Representatives of the Mediating Powers for the guidance of the Delegates sent to arrange the conditions of the armistice.

I also inclose copies of the letters by which I have forwarded it to the officers appointed by Her Majesty's Government upon this duty.

Much practical difficulty will, I imagine, be found in the execution of that part of the instructions which relates to the insurgent bands in Bosnia, which are under no recognized authority, but after the point which had been made of having them included within its provisions, the omission of all mention of them was not possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 337.

Identic Instructions to Military Commission for Arrangement of the Armistice.

Durée de l'Armistice.—L'armistice conclu, avec la médiation des Puissances Garantes, entre la Sublime Porte et les Gouvernements de Serbie et de Monténégro s'étend à toute la ligne des opérations militaires en cours d'exécution; il prend date du moment où l'ordre de suspendre les hostilités a été transmis aux commandants des forces Impériales Ottomanes, c'est-à-dire du 1er Novembre au soir. La durée de cet armistice étant de

huit semaines, il se terminera partout, sauf décision ultérieure, le Mercredi, 28 Décembre, à minuit.

Composition de la Commission Arbitrale.—La Sublime Porte ayant, par son Mémorandum du 12 Octobre, fait appel aux dispositions bienveillantes des Puissances et sollicité la désignation de délégués militaires spéciaux chargés de régler les conditions pratiques de l'armistice, une Commission Arbitrale a été constituée à cet effet et devra se réunir aussi promptement que possible sur le théâtre des opérations. Cette Commission se compose, comme membres ayant voix délibérative, que les Délégués Militaires des Six Puissances Garantes; elle devra toutefois provoquer, dès sa première réunion, la désignation, par les Commandants des armées en présence d'un ou plusieurs officiers chargés de l'éclairer sur les points en discussion, elle les entendra concurremment ou séparément selon qu'elle le jugera nécessaire, mais ne les admettra pas à prendre part à ses délibérations.

Attributions de la Commission.—Les décisions seront prises à la majorité des voix; elles seront communiqués par écrit aux officiers délégués près de la Commission, qui auront à en assurer la transmission immédiate à leurs quartiers généraux respectifs, la Commission ne devant se mettre verbalement et directement en rapport avec les Commandants-en-chef que dans des cas exceptionnels et pour insister, s'il était nécessaire, sur la prompte exécution de ses décisions. Toutes les fois que la Commission jugera nécessaire de faire des vérifications sur place ou de transmettre directement certaines communications aux quartiers généraux, elle pourra déléguer à cet effet deux de ses membres nommés à la majorité des voix.

Dans le cas où les voix de la Commission se partageraient en nombre égal ou s'il survenait dans la mise en application de ses décisions, certains conflits avec les autorités militaires des armées en présence elle devrait, après avoir épuisé tous les moyens de conciliation, en référer aux Représentants des Puissances à Constantinople, qui décideront en dernier ressort.

Les attributions de la Commission sont ainsi nettement définies; elle a pleins pouvoirs pour décider de toutes les questions d'ordre purement militaire, ne doit pas admettre la discussion de ses décisions et doit se négliger aucun effort pour en assurer l'exécution immédiate et entière.

Ordres des Opérations.—Le premier devoir de la Commission est de déterminer aussi promptement que possible et avec la précision la plus scrupuleuse la ligne de démarcation entre les armées par l'indication de villages, accidents de terrain et autres points de repère. Elle s'appuiera, pour cette détermination, sur le principe fondamental de tout armistice en vertu duquel les belligérants doivent conserver leurs positions respectives, sans oublier toutefois qu'étant donnée la nature irrégulière de certains des contingents et l'insuffisance des documents cartographiques, il importe d'éviter autant que possible de tracer des lignes fictives n'ayant pas leur expression dans un accident topographique nettement accusé et qui permettraient aux troupes, en cas de violation, d'arguer de leur ignorance.

Les armées en présence devront, de part et d'autre, laisser entre leurs avant-postes et la ligne générale de démarcation déterminée par la Commission, une zône neutre dont l'accès sera sévèrement interdit aux officiers et aux soldats; l'étendue de cette zône pourra varier selon les dispositions naturelles des localités, mais ne devra jamais être, de part et d'autre, inférieure à quatre kilomètres. Il ne sera fait d'exception à cette règle que dans les cas de nécessité absolue, comme, par exemple, pour laisser aux troupes la possibilité d'abreuver les animaux à un cours d'eau unique coulant dans la zône neutre; la Commission devra, dans ce cas, pour éviter tout conflit, fixer elle-même l'emplacement des points dont l'accès serait autorisé.

Itinéraire de la Commission.—La Commission se réunira d'abord sur la partie du théâtre des opérations où se trouvent en présence les forces les plus considérables, c'est-à-dire dans la haute Vallée de la Morava; elle s'établira, soit au quartier général de l'une ou l'autre armée, soit sur un point intermédiaire qui pourra être choisi dans la zône neutre.

Après avoir réglé les conditions pratiques de l'armistice pour les armées du Timok et de la Morava, elle gagnera, aussi promptement que possible, la frontière occidentale de la Principauté de Serbie et continuera ses opérations jusqu'au confluent de la Drina et de la Save.

La Commission devra profiter de son passage en Bosnie pour se préoccuper de la situation des habitants de quelques sandjaks de ce vilayet qui se sont mis en lutte avec le pouvoir Souverain. Pour satisfaire au désir unanime de l'Europe de mettre fin à l'effusion du sang, elle s'efforcera de localiser dans certains districts les restes de l'insurrection et d'obtenir des commandants des forces Impériales qu'il soit sursis à

toute mesure militaire de répression, qui ne pourrait que réveiller les haines et rendre plus difficile la tâche pacifique entreprise par les Puissances. Si la Commission croyait devoir, à cet effet, se mettre en rapports directs avec quelques uns des chefs de l'insurrection, elle devrait veiller à assurer leur sécurité et tenir à honneur de faire scrupuleusement respecter le sauf conduit qui leur aurait été donné.

En résumé, chacun des membres de la Commission doit comprendre combien il importe à la dignité des Puissances de s'inspirer de l'équité et de l'impartialité la plus entière, de suivre rigoureusement les règles écrites ou traditionnelles du droit des gens et de n'admettre comme guides de ses décisions que les principes supérieurs de justice, d'ordre, et d'humanité.

Inclosure 2 in No. 337.

*Sir H. Elliot to Major-General Sir A. Kemball.**

Constantinople, November 6, 1876.

Sir,

I ENCLOSE a copy of the identic instructions which have been drawn up for the guidance of the members of the Commission upon which Her Majesty's Government have nominated you for arranging the details of the armistice to be observed upon the whole field of the late hostilities.

It is unnecessary for me to add anything to them, as I prefer having your course as little fettered as possible by minute instructions, so that you should be free to act upon your own discretion and judgment.

In the event of any infraction of the armistice by any of the late belligerents coming to your knowledge, I have to request you at once to telegraph the circumstances to me in order that representations may be made in the proper quarter, and at the same time to protest against them in the strongest manner to the military commanders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 337.

Sir H. Elliot to Colonel Leaman.

Constantinople, November 6, 1876.

Sir,

I ENCLOSE a copy of the identic instructions which have been drawn up for the guidance of the members of the Commission, upon which Her Majesty's Government have nominated you for arranging the details of the armistice to be observed upon the whole field of the late hostilities. It is unnecessary for me to add anything to them, as I prefer leaving your course as little fettered as possible by minute instructions, so that you should be free to act upon your own discretion and judgment.

The latter part of the instructions which contains the itinerary to be followed is intended for the Delegates proceeding to arrange the armistice between the Porte and Servia, and is not applicable to you, as your duties will be confined to the arrangement to be made with Montenegro.

On arriving at Ragusa, where you will meet your colleagues, you will concert with them as to your proceedings.

In the event of any infraction of the armistice by any of the late belligerents coming to your knowledge, I have to request you at once to telegraph the circumstances to me, in order that representations may be made in the proper quarter, and at the same time to protest against them in the strongest manner to the military Commanders.

I inclose the Inuyourundi, or travelling order, which you will require while on Turkish territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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* An identic note was addressed to Major Green.

No. 338.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 17.*)

(No. 1251. Very Confidential.)

Constantinople, November 7, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of the letter which the Sultan addressed to the Emperor of Russia upon receiving His Imperial Majesty's reply to the notification of his accession to the Throne, and which has been communicated to me by Safvet Pasha, with the request that it might be considered strictly confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 338.

Letter addressed by His Majesty the Sultan to the Emperor of Russia.

Majestueux, Glorieux, Puissant, et Magnanime Empereur de toutes les Russies, notre ami sincère:

M. l'Aide-de-camp Général Ignatiew m'a remis hier la lettre de votre Majesté en réponse à ma notification relative à mon avénement au Trône de mes ancêtres.

C'est avec une satisfaction toute particulière que j'ai relevé de son contenu les bonnes dispositions de votre Majesté pour le maintien de nos rapports d'amitié, dispositions qui correspondent entièrement aux miennes. J'ai été également sensible de voir votre Majesté reconnaître la gravité des circonstances au milieu desquelles j'inaugure mon règne et je compte sur sa précieuse amitié afin de pouvoir atteindre le but de mes efforts constants pour apaiser les esprits, et rétablir la sécurité et le bon ordre, malheureusement troublés avant mon avénement au Trône, dans quelques parties de l'Empire.

Le succès des efforts que je consacre dans ce but sera de beaucoup facilité par le concours amical de votre Majesté, qui voudra bien, j'en suis fermement convaincu, donner en cette circonstance une nouvelle preuve de ses sentiments bienveillants et de ses bonnes intentions à l'égard de mon Empire.

Je profite du retour du yacht Impérial "Livadia" pour assurer votre Majesté des vœux ardents que je forme pour son bonheur et pour la gloire de son règne, et je la prie de vouloir bien agréer les nouvelles assurances de ma grande considération et de ma très sincère amitié.

(Signé) ABDUL HAMID II.

Palais de Dolma-Baghché, le 15/27 Octobre, 1876.

No. 339.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 17.*)

(No. 1253.)

Constantinople, November 7, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two further reports which have been addressed to me by Mr. Baring respecting the proceedings of the Commission at Philippopolis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 339.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, October 30, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my previous despatches, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Batak and Dervent cases are still being examined by the Commissioners; the latter having only made very slight progress. The former has advanced more rapidly, the interrogatory of Achmet Agha being pretty well completed.

As far as one can judge at present the two persons most deeply implicated next to Achmet Agha are Achmet Tchaoush, of Kara Boulak and Bektach Metto; the latter was examined on the 27th instant, the principal witness against him being a woman, Sofia Kankovitza.

A man named Kulluk Halil has also been arrested for the Batak affair, extortion of money being the principal charge against him.

I regret to say that the son of Achmet Agha, who is undoubtedly guilty of the most horrid crimes, has not been arrested, and he is in hiding somewhere in the district of Drama.

Three other criminals, Adil Agha, Ismail Agha, and Deli Mahmet, who destroyed the villages of Boreeou and Dedovo are also not forthcoming, though orders for their arrest have been issued.

I cannot say that in my opinion the progress of the Commission is satisfactory; six weeks about have elapsed since it left Constantinople, a very short time was spent in visiting a portion of the scene of the atrocities, and the rest has been occupied with the interrogatories here. Numbers of persons have been examined, reams of paper have been covered with depositions, but no result has been arrived at, and nothing has been decided. Had matters been arranged better I have no hesitation in saying that the Batak affair at least might have been finished by this time, and considerable progress made with that of Dervent.

It is a surprising fact that the Commission has not yet decided whether the Batak massacre was a crime or not. This question has been discussed, and the three Christian members and Hamid Bey are of opinion that the word should be adopted in the Minutes. The chief opponent of this sensible view is Ismail Bey, who, though a member of the so-called "Jeune Turquie" party and a man who is supposed to have some enlightenment, has evidently set himself the task of clearing the Turkish authorities, and, if possible, the Bashi-Bazouks too, from all blame.

In furtherence of this object he never loses an opportunity of trying to prove that the inhabitants of Batak and Dervent were killed in fair fight, and maintains the absurd theory put forward by Edil Effendi, that the Bulgarians themselves burnt all the villages, and not the Bashi-Bazouks.

Were the existence of crime once formally acknowledged, it would be by no means a difficult task to prove the criminality of the accused, but until the Mussulman members make up their minds to admit this most undoubted fact, the Commission is simply working in the dark.

The principal point which the Mussulman members are striving might and main to prove, is that a serious and widespread insurrection existed. No one, to my knowledge, wishes to deny that a portion of the population rose in revolt, the charge brought against the Turks being not that they had suppressed an insurrection, but that they had stamped it out with reckless barbarity, and that they punished the innocent and guilty alike. Six months have now elapsed since the suppression of the revolt, and about 100 persons have been hanged for participation in it; it seems rather late for the Turkish authorities to send a Commission whose chief duty is to prove that an insurrection existed.

As regards the rebuilding of the houses and the restoration of the lost property, the Commission has not, as yet, done as much as it might in the time.

It has appointed two persons, Turks of Philippopoli, to inspect the villages of this Caza, and see to the rebuilding of houses; one of them, Hafiz Nowri Effendi, is, I believe, an honourable man, but the other, Mehmet Hodjazadi, bears a most abominable reputation.

In the district of Tatar-Bazardjik, thirty-four villages have been divided among eight of the notables, Christain and Mussulman. The person appointed to inspect six of them is Ali Bey, a fanatic of the worst description, who has fattened on the spoils of the Bulgarian villages destroyed during the insurrection, and who is the terror of the Christians of Bazardjik. The Turks of Bazardjik are notorious for fanaticism and other bad qualities, but Ali Bey surpasses them all in vindictiveness, licentiousness and dishonesty, and his appointment to a post of trust is a disgrace to the Commission.

His misdeeds are well known, and he should be put on his trial immediately, together with his nephew Mehmet Ali Bey.

When I pointed out that this man was hardly fitted for the duty entrusted to him, I was told though there were charges against him, no one could be found who would be likely to do the work better.

The first fruits of this newly constituted body of inspectors I saw the other day, when two men from two small villages near Bazardjik came and complained that each village had been called upon to furnish gratis 800 planks.

That the Turkish Treasury will provide the money required there is no doubt, but I should be very sorry to guarantee that any large portion of it will be applied to relieve distress, when such a scoundrel as Ali Bey is entrusted with its distribution.

The village where, I believe, most has been done is Peroustiza; when I visited the place on the 15th instant the Government building was stopped from want of wood, but I now hear that supplies have been sent and that a fair number of houses have been roofed in.

An official report addressed to the Commission, and which I heard read yesterday, speaks of 100 houses at Batak as completely finished; if this is the true state of the case great activity must have been displayed, as Lady Strangford, who visited the place about a week ago, found only fifteen workmen, and hardly a house roofed in.

Mr. Clarke, who has been to Dobrunista, the village in the Caza of Nevrokop, said to have been burnt by Bashi-Bazouks returning from the war, and about which Mr. Calvert has reported to your Excellency, is expected here to-morrow and will be able to give reliable information as to what the authorities have really done at Batak.

A sum of 50,500 piastres in "caimés" have been distributed among three burnt villages destroyed during the insurrection in the Bazardjik district in the following proportions:—

	Piastres
Radilovo, Bulgarian, 166 houses	15,000
Ali Hodja, 70 houses	7,500
Bega, Turkish houses, 54	18,000
Ditto, Christian houses, 65 houses	16,000

I am told that this money has not been given by the Commission, but is part of 7,000 Turkish pounds sent from Constantinople previous to its arrival here, and has been distributed in the shape of loans.

I believe that the larger portion of the women and children carried off from Batak have now been returned to their homes, though there are still some at and about Nevrokop which, being in the vilayet of Salonica, is not within the jurisdiction of the Philippopolis authorities. Much stolen property would also be found in the neighbouring vilayet, if a proper search were made, as a large body of Bashi-Bazouks came from Nevrokup to attack Batak.

Some Circassians and others have lately made a raid in the neighbourhood of Otlonkeui. Two companies of infantry have consequently been despatched to the village, and some cavalry have been sent to patrol the roads.

The Commission has decided to recommend the establishment of three new Kaïmakamliks, viz., at Carlovo, Avrat Alan, and Serokala. The second of these villages is a purely Christian village, and at Otlonkeui, which is close to it, there is not a single Turk, but I regret to say that it has not been thought necessary for that reason to appoint a Christian Kaïmakam.

A Kaïmakam should also be appointed at Stanimka, a large village four hours from this place, containing 2,500 houses and some 10,000 inhabitants, where there is now only a Mudir, who cannot settle any claim above one of 40 piastres, the consequence being that the inhabitants of the district have to travel to Philippopolis in order to have the smallest matters settled by the Tribunals.

With reference to the outrages at Wradje, which I reported to your Excellency in my despatch of the 13th instant, I asked Saadoullah Bey whether any inquiry would be held respecting the occurrences north of the Balkans, but I was informed in reply that the Commission had not the power to extend its inquiries into the vilayet of the Danube.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 339.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Philippopoli, November 1, 1876.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the statement I made respecting the functions of Ali Bey and other notables of Tatar Bazardjik in my despatch of the 30th ultimo is not altogether correct.

I had understood clearly from Ismail Bey the other day that the task of seeing to the rebuilding of the houses had been entrusted to these men, and I consequently thought that they would receive the funds necessary for carrying on their work. From a subsequent conversation, however, I gathered that the money will remain in the hands of the Building Commission at Bazardjik, and that Ali Bey and his colleagues will act as inspectors to see that the work is properly carried on, that the neighbouring villages give the requisite help, and that workmen are provided. Ali Bey, on account of his influence, is supposed to be peculiarly well-suited for these duties, and, no doubt, if the Commission wished to select a man whose name would inspire terror in the hearts of the Bulgarians a most admirable selection has been made. No man would understand better the imposition of forced labour, and dread of his vengeance will be quite enough to keep any Bulgarian from making a complaint respecting exactions or non-fulfilment of promises.

I am not aware what meaning exactly Ismail Bey attaches to the word "influential"; if he means a man who, from a course of ill-doing and oppression has made himself feared and hated by all, and for this reason can impose his will on a population which knows it has no redress against him, then Ali Bey undoubtedly deserves the title; but if, on the contrary, he means a man who has earned the respect of his fellow-men, and to whom his inferiors can look for aid and protection, the epithet in question could hardly be applied to the individual whose name I have, unfortunately, had so often to mention.

I am anxious, for the sake of accuracy, to correct the slight mistake I made in my above-mentioned despatch, but I do not think that the appointment of Ali Bey is one atom the less objectional on account of this small difference in his duties.

On my speaking again to Ismail Bey on the subject to-day, he tried to make out that the nomination of Ali Bey to this post of inspector could not be taken as a proof of confidence, as he was not in the receipt of Government pay; he said that the man had been useful to the authorities on more occasions than one, and the impression left on my mind by his remarks was that no action would be taken against him, as the Government was afraid of making itself too disagreeable to men of his class.

Pertev Effendi has arrived to try the remaining Bulgarian prisoners, who have now been in prison since May.

The Commission has been occupied to-day and yesterday with the examination of Tossoun Bey, the illness of Achmet Agha preventing his case from being continued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 340.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1254.)

Constantinople, November 7, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE forwarded to your Lordship copies of Mr. Baring's reports, giving a very unsatisfactory account of the proceedings of the Commission at Philippopolis.

The substance of them has been communicated to the Porte, and I have had several serious conversations with the Grand Vizier, Midhat Pasha, and Safvet Pasha, in which I protested in the strongest terms against the apparent indisposition of the Commission to allow the charges to be brought home to the persons whose conduct during the late insurrection was arraigned.

The matter was in consequence brought before the Ministerial Council, and a whole sitting having been devoted to the subject, the result was the despatch of an order to Ismail Bey, one of the members of the Commission, to come to Constantinople to give explanations, and to receive instructions.

In a conversation with Safvet Pasha two days ago, in which I again spoke of the illusory character of the proceedings, I told him I had serious thoughts of recalling Mr. Baring from Philippopolis, as I was not disposed to appear to countenance them by the presence of a member of Her Majesty's Embassy.

He begged me not to take that step, saying that Ismail Bey was expected to arrive the same day, and that I should have reason to be satisfied.

I said it was impossible to be satisfied as long as we saw a person with such accusations against him as those against Chefket Pasha continuing apparently to enjoy the confidence of the Government without any inquiry being made into his conduct.

Safvet Pasha answered that the Commission had hitherto been occupied by the occurrences in a part of the country distant from Boyadji Keui, but that Chefket Pasha's conduct would be rigidly examined, when it came to inquire what had taken place there.

I have to-day had a visit from Ismail Bey, from whom I did not conceal that the Commission to which he belonged was not proceeding in a manner to inspire confidence, and I said he would be doing bad service to his Government and his country if it did not act with proper vigour.

He justified the dilatory proceedings of the Commission by the difficulty of getting trustworthy evidence; and, in reply to the charge of endeavouring to shield the accused, he said the mass of groundless accusations required careful examination of the witnesses.

He fully admitted that great crimes having been committed, there were, as a matter of course, great criminals who must be punished, and the Commission would do its duty properly in regard to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 341.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1255.) *Constantinople, November 7, 1876.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Blunt's despatch to your Lordship, No. 82, of the 1st instant, respecting the women and children from Batak detained in the vilayet of Salonica, I have the honour to inform you that I have brought the circumstances mentioned in it under the notice of Safvet Pasha, who has promised to encourage the Governor-General to continue the exertions he seems to be making for the recovery of any of these people still retained in his province, and also to take the steps which may be requisite respecting the Mutessarif of Drama.

I reminded his Excellency that a Proclamation of the Grand Vizier's had announced that the severest penalties would be inflicted upon any persons retaining Bulgarians from the devastated districts, and as such cases had evidently occurred, I trusted that the guilty parties would be proceeded against.

I have also written to Mr. Blunt to urge the Governor-General to take measures for the punishment of these persons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 342.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1259.) *Constantinople, November 8, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of Mr. Sandison's report of a conversation with the Grand Vizier after the communication to the Porte of the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a Conference to be held at Constantinople.

This morning, by desire of the Grand Vizier, Safvet Pasha called upon me to set forth all the objections felt by the Porte to the course proposed.

The Porte had already expressed itself unwilling to consent that the measures to be promulgated for the government of the insurgent provinces should be embodied in

a Protocol, but a Conference must end by an act of that nature, or perhaps by something still more formal in the shape of a Convention.

A fatal blow would be struck at the authority and independence of the Porte by a recognition of the right of foreign Governments to interfere in the internal administration of the country; the IXth Article of the Treaty of Paris would be deliberately torn up, and the Imperial Government trusted that Great Britain was still sufficiently a friend to Turkey not to insist upon a measure which must have this result.

The Porte was labouring day and night in drawing up the reforms which would ensure to the whole country the securities which Her Majesty's Government had asked for certain provinces only, and it would be but the commonest act of justice to allow them to be produced, before the Powers insist upon taking the matter out of the hands of the Imperial Government.

He asked me whether Her Majesty's Government did not consider that the measures already announced would give what had been demanded for the provinces.

If Her Majesty's Government held them to be insufficient, and wished to suggest alterations, the Porte would pay every attention to their recommendations, and would willingly amend the projects as far as was practicable, but, with a view to the maintenance of the authority of the Imperial Government, which is indispensable for the administration of the country, it was essential that everything done for the populations should be done on the initiative of the Porte, and not on that of foreign Governments, to which all the discontented throughout the Empire would be for the future taught to look.

I told the Minister that it was out of the question for Her Majesty's Government to retract the proposal for a Conference which had already been made to all the Powers, and generally acceded to by them.

It had, however, been made by Her Majesty's Government in no spirit of hostility to the Porte, but quite the reverse.

There was a wish in certain quarters for a Conference at which the Porte should not be represented, but which should meet and concert measures to be imposed upon it.

Her Majesty's Government had come forward and prevented any such proposition from being formally made by inviting a Conference, in which the Porte should take part, and upon bases much more favourable than would otherwise have been suggested.

I understood much of the repugnance felt by the Porte, but, as a Conference must certainly take place, I hoped it would show no hesitation in assenting to it, for if Turkey should decline, the proposal to proceed independently of her would certainly be made.

With regard to the abrogation of the IXth Article of the Treaty of Paris, which his Excellency thought likely to result from it, I observed to him that the engagement of the Powers to abstain from interference in the internal administration of this country was taken on the faith of engagements entered into by the Porte which had not been carried out.

Safvet Pasha answered that he must admit the Porte to have given the Powers too much ground for this argument during the reign of Sultan Abdul Aziz, but no doubt could be entertained of the sincerity of the present Sovereign to carry out the measures that had been promised, but of which the execution had hitherto been rendered impossible by the insurrection and war prevailing in the provinces.

I said that some of these measures could certainly not be applied in the disturbed districts, but there were others, and very important ones, which could as certainly have been carried out.

There was no reason, for instance, why Christian Mutessarifs and Kaimakams should not have been named in Christian districts, nor why a Christian police should not have been established in them.

It was late in the day, but if the Porte would take my advice it should, without waiting for the formation of Provincial and other Councils, and the other measures which require time and consideration, at once begin giving a practical application to the principles it professed to have adopted.

It should apply them to the Greek as well as to the Slav Provinces, and when the Conference meets it might still be possible to point to acts as evidence that a new system was already being inaugurated, instead of having to rely merely upon promises of which the Powers had become distrustful.

Safvet Pasha promised to advocate the adoption of this suggestion with the Grand Vizier, to whom he would communicate all I had said, though it would be a great

disappointment to his Highness to find that I considered a Conference to be unavoidable.

There is little likelihood of the Porte refusing to agree to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT

Inclosure in No. 342.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidential.) *Pera, November 7, 1876.*

Sir,

THE Grand Vizier spoke to-day with considerable uneasiness of the Conference to be held at Constantinople as proposed by Her Majesty's Government. His Highness, who is not less apprehensive than his colleagues of the political dangers supposed to attend Turkey in the event of a Conference, cannot, he said, see in it the way to a solution of the pending questions without exciting dangerous discontent in the country and greatly diminishing the Sultan's prestige and authority in European Turkey. A country which has passively submitted to no other will than that of the Sovereign, and which has for centuries been governed on these principles—a country, in fact, where the authority of the law has never been properly established and felt by the people, and one which, though peopled by so many different races and nationalities, has nevertheless been taught to acknowledge and respect but the Imperial authority—cannot, his Highness continued, be expected to remain for the future in the same state of submission the day that the Sultan was made to relinquish his prestige and authority over certain provinces of his Empire. Successive insurrections were, he greatly apprehended, sure to break out throughout the country if an exceptional position was created for Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Bulgaria, by means of what is called "local or administrative autonomy." Then with regard to guarantees, the time is past, he added, for the Government to proclaim reforms and not actually carry them out; and he felt certain that the Porte would now take special care to apply to the insurgent provinces the reforms lately edicted for all parts of the Empire.

I begged his Highness would recollect how Europe had been taught by experience to distrust repeated promises, the non-fulfilment of which had naturally so shaken the confidence of almost all the European Governments that nothing short of satisfactory guarantees would now satisfy them, and that it was therefore difficult to see how these could either be offered or accepted without a Conference. The whole question, I ventured to add, connected with the insurgent provinces, could not be safely discussed except in a Conference, which, under present circumstances, was, perhaps, the only means of preventing isolated action on the part of Russia, and that it was, therefore, far safer for the Porte to submit to the award of a Conference than expose itself to the danger of being left to the tender mercies of Russia, which, at this moment at least, showed little inclination for forbearance and reconciliation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 343.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 17.*)

(No. 1200.) *Constantinople, November 9, 1876.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two further reports which I have received from Sir A. Kemball on the military operations in the Morava Valley.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 343.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters, Camp before Alexinatz, October 23, 1876.*

THE subjoined telegrams (A to E inclusive) will have acquainted your Excellency with the advance of this force in the direction of Djunis, for the purpose of obtaining the command of the roads meeting at that point, and with a view also of turning the enemy's position at Deligrad. The hesitation of the Servian Government to accede to the Porte's proposal for a prolonged armistice appears to have determined Ahmed Ayoub Pasha, after personal consultation with the Serdar Ekrem at Nisch, to abandon the defensive attitude he had observed since the 1st of September last.

The attack commenced at daylight on the morning of the 19th instant, by a general advance of the Turkish brigades which had hitherto faced the Servian position in our rear, but which, from the change of assumed objective from Alexinatz to Djunis, may now be held to form the Turkish front line; and so completely was the enemy taken by surprise, that his advanced defences, consisting of numerous well-constructed batteries and redoubts, which constituted the main strength of his position, were successively abandoned after a feeble struggle. So persistent was the assault of the Turkish forces, that before 3 P.M. they had carried the whole range of heights opposed to them, except only the crest of a long spur on the right, where the Servians maintained their defence, until night put an end to offensive operations. The occupation of this crest, defended as it was by a redoubt, and commanded by a battery on the adjoining range, being essential to a further advance, the whole of the following day (20th) was spent by the right brigade in the attempt to carry it; but by this time the Servians, having obtained reinforcements, the repeated efforts of the Turkish troops were unavailing. Nevertheless, the progress made by them both along the ridge and on its southern slope having rendered it untenable against a further attack in the morning, the Turks continuing to hold the ground they had gained, it was abandoned by the Servians during the night. On the 21st the general attack was resumed with scarcely more opposition than on the 19th (the Servians being supported only during the later part of the day by the artillery of the distant batteries on their last line of heights on the northern side of the valley of the Djuniska, the Turks by the mountain guns attached to their several brigades), and ended by the former being completely driven off the intermediate spurs and crests up to the base of the said line, leaving the large villages of Kavnik and Velliki Siljegovatz, beside other minor villages, at the mercy of the latter.

Owing to the character of the country, which consisted of successive ranges of heights, varying from 300 to 500 feet, covered with forest trees, the inferior Servian troops were enabled to offer a more protracted resistance than without such shelter could certainly have been expected of them; for wherever open spaces afforded a glimpse of the combat, their retirement before the Turks bore rather the appearance of a stampede than a regular retreat. As usual, the Servians succeeded, by their rapid movements, in carrying off all their guns, which, after these had been withdrawn from the shelter of the batteries, were not again employed, nor, indeed, did the nature of the ground admit of their being easily brought into action. The advanced redoubts were protected by mines at a distance of about 200 yards on the line of approach, which was here further defended by *chevaux de frise* and felled trees. The road also was mined between Kavnik and Siljegovatz, but, owing to want of time or to miscalculation, these mines were not sprung at all, or exploded inopportunely, the wires connecting them with the electric batteries in the former case being afterwards discovered and cut by the Turks.

The better to explain the movements above described I beg to annex a sketch map extracted from the "Times," on which I have marked the positions taken up by the Turks on the three days referred to, viz.:—

a b—Position before 19th.
c d—Advance on 19th.
e g, h i—Advance on 21st.
e g f—Position on 22nd, after the withdrawal of the left brigade from *g h i* on evening 21st.
k—Head-quarters, exposed to shells from enemy's battery at *tête-de-pont*, withdrawn to *l* on 21st.
m n—Enemy's position on night of 21st.

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I estimate the Turkish forces actually engaged at from 12,000 to 15,000 men, exclusive of reserves, and the Servian forces at conjecturally the same strength. I must not omit to mention that, on the 16th instant, this army was reinforced by four complete battalions from Nisch.

I have nothing to add to my telegram D respecting the villages burnt by the Bashi-Bazouks. These irregulars are wholly uncontrollable, and, so long as they are employed in the field, they will continue by such acts to reflect discredit on the Turkish army. They are acknowledged by the superior officers to be useless as fighting men, and since they cannot be induced to enlist on the same terms as the volunteers for the war, the only alternative seems to lie in their summary ejection from the camp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

P.S.—I ought to have mentioned in my despatch above that, on the right brigade occupying the spur which overlooks Kavnik, the Servians made an attack in force in order to check the advance of the Turks and allow time for the complete evacuation of the village. We had observed, as we thought, near one of the houses, the Sisters of Charity attached to the Servian ambulances. Your Excellency will probably not regret to hear, therefore, that the attack was quite successful in its object.

A. B. K.

Telegram (A.)

October 19.

Thursday, 9 P.M.—Turks attacked and captured redoubts and batteries enemy's position in the rear as far as Djunis; fighting lasted all day. Continual rain during the day. Operations very probably resumed to-morrow morning, turn Deligrad. Small loss.

Telegram (B.)

October 20.

Friday, 10 P.M.—Division Hafiz Pasha only advanced to-day, gaining ground after hard fighting; enemy's position very strong. Operations will be resumed to-morrow morning.

Telegram (C.)

Please ask Consul Belgrade tell Marie Kosminichna, nurse sick and wounded, division Horvatovich, husband Nicolai Petrovich, prisoner of war, safe and well. Wishes her come Constantinople.

Telegram (D.)

October 21.

Saturday, 9 P.M.—Turks completely successful. Servians driven from all their positions left side Morava River, except heights overhanging Deligrad, and covering Djunis cross-roads. Victory tarnished by partial destruction villages by Bashi-Bazouks, in spite of most strict orders given at my instance on field; six defaulters will be severely punished; one, who threatened life Aziz Pasha, will be, I hope, shot. No outrages, villages deserted. Small loss. Operations will be resumed to-morrow morning unless rain heavy. Fifteen prisoners three days, including two Russian officers, one Servian Captain.

Telegram (E.)

October 22.

Sunday, 9 P.M.—Rain too heavy for operations to-day. Front henceforth Djunis. Right front maintained, left front retired to position taken first day for strategic reasons. Enemy quiet, may have retreated last height overhanging Deligrad.

Inclosure 2 in No. 343.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters, Camp before Alexinatz, October* 30, 1876.

I HAVE little to add to the subjoined five telegrams, forwarded by me to your Excellency, since the date of my despatch of the 23rd instant.

The principal feature of the fight yesterday consisted in the advance of the right and centre divisions of the Turkish line of attack, along the two crests leading to the superior heights, which formed the main and last position of the Servians on the left side of the valley of the Morava, overhanging Deligrad. These crests were fortified by three batteries and numerous entrenchments, and might be regarded as the out-works of the *enceinte* behind. On the crest to the right, while the Turks were employed in climbing the slopes, the Servians were enabled to deliver their fire almost unmolested, but no sooner had the former approached within a distance of 200 yards, than the latter were seen to quit their intrenchments with the utmost precipitation, and in lieu of retiring on their main works to take down the opposite slopes, and across the plain on their way to the bridges over the Morava. For once, Nedjib Pasha, chief of staff, who commanded this division (for the day) brought up his guns to support the attack of his infantry, and so materially contributed to the result above described. The further advance of the two right divisions was characterized throughout by the same lashes of the enemy. Their retreat was a stampede, and before 2 P.M., they had abandoned the whole of their works, with 11 guns (7 field and 4 mountain guns) into the hands of the Turks. The left and left-centre divisions having to recover the ground from which they had withdrawn on the night of the 21st instant, and also to traverse a considerable tract of wooded country to the left of the valley of the Djuniska, before they could gain the base of the enemy's position, had scarcely reached the parallel of Djunis on the heights beyond, when the success of the right division put an end to the contest, and by cutting off the retreat of the Servian right towards Deligrad, necessarily compelled it to fall back precipitately upon Krushevatz, by the only road left open to it. The Servian loss was chiefly inflicted by the fire to which they were exposed during their retreat from post to post. A very considerable number also fell under the sabres of cavalry posted in the valley of the Djuniska to intercept their flight. The loss of the Turks is estimated at between 30 and 40 killed and 300 wounded. The attacking force was between 15,000 and 18,000 strong, including the reserves.

The Turks now hold all the country between the valleys of the Morava and the Djuniska, as well as the heights to the west of the latter valley covering the road to Krushevatz.

I proceeded this morning to the head-quarters of the Turkish left division, distance ten miles from general head-quarters, in order to assist at the occupation of Krushevatz, but only to find that this movement had been countermanded. Time, it seems, had not sufficed for the necessary preparations, and had led accordingly to the march upon Krushevatz being delayed until to-morrow, and the attack of Alexinatz until the following day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

Telegram (A.)

Monday, 5 P.M.—To-day right brigades slightly advanced; left brigade employed feeling for the enemy in its front towards Krushevatz Road. Enemy has evacuated Djunis and inferior heights covering that village, but still occupies superior crest overhanging Deligrad.

Telegram (B.)

Tuesday, 7 P.M.—All quiet to-day. Line of operations apparently changed. Further advance on either cross roads from Djunis suspended. Heavy guns ordered from Nisch. Object conjectured to gain better footing in respect to conditions of armistice. New position inconveniently distant for commissariat.

Telegram (C.)

Saturday, 6 P.M.—Nothing to report last four days. Turks have reverted to original line of operations, in the direction of Deligrad, Krushovatz, and will attack enemy's position on superior heights on this side Morava River, overhanging Deligrad, to-morrow morning, if bad weather ceases. Attack Alexinatz not abandoned but deferred. Morava River swollen; ground and roads very bad.

Telegram (D.)

Sunday, 6 P.M.—Complete Turkish victory; whole enemy's position left side Morava River captured, with eleven guns. Servian losses severe, including many foreigners. Turkish, small loss. Enemy's position of extraordinary strength, natural and artificial, literally taken with a run. Servian stampede.

Telegram (E.)

Monday, 7 A.M.—To-day Krushovatz will be occupied. To-morrow Alexinatz will be attempted; if successful terms armistice will be arranged with greatest ease. Excuse no letters to-day's post.

No. 344.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1261.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 9, 1876.*

MR. WHITE has forwarded to your Lordship copies of his despatches to me of the 23rd September and of the 6th ultimo, inclosing communications from the Servian Government on the subject of excesses alleged to have been committed by the Turkish troops upon Servian territory.

Sir Arnold Kemball, to whom I referred these despatches, has commented upon them in the reports of which I have the honour to inclose copies, and which I have also transmitted to Mr. White.

I also instructed Mr. Dragoman Marinich to communicate to the Porte Mr. White's despatch of the 23rd ultimo, and the Minister of War has now declared to him that the inquiries which have been made prove that the alleged atrocities were never committed, and that the greatest vigilance is exercised by Special Military Commissioners to prevent such acts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 344.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Nish, October 26, 1876.*

I HAD the honour to receive, on the 17th instant, your Excellency's despatch of the 9th instant, inclosing a despatch from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Belgrade, of 23rd September, respecting outrages by Turkish soldiers; but owing to to my preoccupation in camp, and the inquiries which the subject entailed, I have been unable up to this date to reply to it.

With regard to the first case, I am not in a position, on the evidence that is available, to affirm or deny the facts stated. That the Circassians, after the rout of the Servian army, on the night of the 1st September, did alone carry the pursuit with a view to plunder much in advance of the Turkish force, and did probably kill every Servian they encountered, until stopped by the fire of a body of infantry which rallied in good order, cannot, I believe, be questioned; but their practice being, I fear, in the general case to refuse quarter, I am at a loss to explain why, in this instance, they

should have spared the man's life after deliberately mutilating him in the manner described.

I take this opportunity to mention that, assuming the correctness of the cause assigned, viz., the sight of the cross on the amputated arm, I have myself suggested that the surgeons of the Red Cross Society serving here who had suppressed their badges on the ground of supposed offence to Mahometans, should immediately resume them in token of their non-combatant duties, and my suggestion to this effect has been complied with.

With respect to the second case, the circumstantial details appear to afford inferial evidence adverse to the reality of the alleged occurrence; there are no Egyptian troops of any description with the Turkish expeditionary corps in the valley of the Morava; much less Egyptian cavalry (regulars). Again, this corps has never lost or abandoned any ground it has taken upsince the 1st of September, and on the 2nd and 3rd September no offensive operations were undertaken by it beyond the limits then reached. It is to be regretted that Mr. Villiers, the Special Artist of the "Graphic," was not invited to state more precisely the time and place of the atrocity he depicted. It must have occurred within the enemy's lines to enable Mr. Villiers to view the bodies, and these, the Turks assert, having been beyond their reach at any time, seeing that the outposts of the two armies have since been within rifle range of each other, must have been placed in the posture described (with the ropes uninjured by the fire which had been employed to roast the wounded Servians) by their Russo-Servian enemy for special illustration, to an obvious end. Be this as it may, the circumstances cited need to be fortified by testimony of a more precise character before they can carry conviction to an impartial mind.

The third crime of which the Turkish troops are accused is one of which, unhappily, I am least disposed to question the reality. We cannot doubt the evidence of parallel cases in greater or less number which have been elsewhere certified since the beginning of the revolutionary movement in the Christian provinces of Turkey; but occurring, as it is said to have done, at so great a distance as Yankova Klissura, and at a period antecedent to my joining this camp, I have been unable to discover any clue to its perpetration, or to form a judgment upon it.

I should add that the Red Cross surgeons who accompanied Colonel Loyd-Lindsay to Deligrad prior to their coming with him to the Turkish camp, viâ Widdin and Nisch, had heard these three cases of outrage spoken of in the Servian lines, but they had themselves no personal knowledge of their occurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 344.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Head-Quarters, Camp before Alexinatz, November 1, 1876.*

I HAD the honour to receive yesterday morning your Excellency's despatch dated 24th October.

With respect to General Tchernaiff's report to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Belgrade, which formed Inclosure 1, I must refer your Excellency to the remarks in my despatch of the 26th October, as applying in its main features to the case of outrage therein cited.

On the 1st August the Turkish troops under Ahmed Eyoub Pasha had entered the passes of Grammâ and Pandéloh.

The Turkish troops under Ali Saib Pasha had not yet reached Nish from Mitrovitza on their way to invade the valley of the Morava.

Ahmed Eyoub Pasha's corps did not leave Knianzewatz (Giurgussovatz) for many days after the capture of that town, and did not join the corps of Ali Saib Pasha before Alexinatz until the 19th or 20th August.

I am quite unable, therefore, to identify the ground which is described by General Tchernaieff as one on which "nos troupes, après avoir repris à l'ennemi une position, abandonnée la veille, trouvèrent, &c.;" seeing that up to the 16th August the Servians certainly could not have resumed any ground occupied by the Turks since 1st August.

One circumstance mentioned in General Tchernaieff's report, viz.: "La présence de cadavres de soldats Nizams prouvent que ces atrocités sont l'œuvre de troupes régu-

lières," is one completely opposed to my experience and that of my aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Dougall, R.N.

We have together witnessed many engagements between the Turks and Servians, and having generally, at one time or other, during or after the conflict, traversed the field of battle from end to end, we have invariably observed that the Turks buried their slain where they fell or where they may have died on their way to the rear, and that, too, at their earliest moment of leisure.

The exception testified by Colonel Prerodavich and Captain Zikelmnow, and other witnesses, is so far unaccountable that it was certainly not occasioned by stress of fight and defeat.

Assuming 1st of August to be an error for 1st September, I have already commented on a similar case in my despatch under reference.

With regard to the second report of General Tchernaieff, I have only to observe that it was at the ford near the village of Bonimir, where the Servians, in the course of their demonstration in the direction of Nish, on the 28th of September, incautiously threw across the river a battalion of infantry, which battalion being encountered by a superior force, including a considerable body of Circassians, was nearly destroyed. As the conflict took place under the Servian guns posted on the heights overhanging the Morava to the East, I should have supposed that the Servians would have been enabled, as usual, to carry off their wounded, but I am not in a position to refute the evidence adduced to the contrary. Certainly, with two exceptions, we have never seen any wounded Servians (those two being well cared for), but among the slain the signs of any such persons having been mutilated or tortured to death have not come under our notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

No. 345.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 17.*)

(No. 1262.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 9, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1247 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that it has been agreed to omit from the instructions to the Military Commission for the arrangement of the armistice with Montenegro the paragraph stating that the extent of the neutral zone shall never be less than 8 kilom., and to substitute the inclosed paragraph for that prescribing the itinerary of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 345.

Instructions for the Commission to arrange the Armistice in Montenegro, substituted for those under "Itinéraire de la Commission" in the General Instructions.

LA Commission se réunira à Ragusa et se dirigera de là vers Trébinjé, Bilek, Gatzko, et Nichsich pour établir la ligne de démarcation en Herzégovine occupant des positions avancées, et reviendra ensuite par Kaleschin à la frontière Albanaise. Il est bien entendu que les questions se rapportant aux blocus existants devront être réglées par des stipulations spéciales, et que l'approvisionnement des places investies pendant la durée de l'armistice dépendra d'une entente directe entre les deux parties.

No. 346.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November 17.*)

(No. 1264.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November 9, 1876.*

THE inclosed memorandum of suggested reforms has been sent to me by Dr. Washburn and Dr. Long of the American College.

The thorough knowledge which these gentlemen possess respecting the state of the country entitles all they say to consideration, but there is much in their present suggestions of which the application does not seem practicable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 346.

Memoir on Reforms in Turkey.

WE are deeply impressed with the belief that the approaching Conference in Constantinople will afford England an opportunity for increasing her own influence in this country, and at the same time to secure inestimable advantages to its Christian populations.

We, therefore, venture to present the following memoir of those changes which seem to us essential, in order to secure equal rights to the Christians, and a better Government for all. It will be seen that no one of them touches the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, and all our propositions are already substantially included in promises made by the Turkish Government:—

1. The army should be changed from a Moslem to a national army. This change might be effected at once, on the following plan, which, we believe, would be satisfactory to the Christians.

Drafting of Christians into Christian regiments of which the Colonel to be a European, the Lieutenant-Colonel and the Major Turks, and all the company officers Christians.

The military schools to be opened at once to Christians, and these to take their places in the army as soon as trained. These schools will soon produce Christian officers as much superior to the Turks, as the medical school produces better Christian than Turkish surgeons. A similar change should be made in the navy, but the demand for this is not so pressing.

2. The Sheri'at should be replaced by a civil code administered by Civil Courts. The details of this change should be elaborated by Jurists, but there are certain general principles which we may mention.

The Judiciary should be separated from the Executive Department. No Vali Mutessarif, Mudir or Kaïmakam should have any control whatever over these Courts.

The Ecclesiastical Courts (Mehkemes) should be abolished, or confined strictly to Moslems in their relations with one another, and no ecclesiastic, Moslem or Christian, should be connected with any court. This will of course cut off all the Cadis.

There should be a Court of Appeal at Constantinople, and no appeal even allowed to the Executive department here.

Each vilayet should have its own Court of Appeals whose decision should be final, except in certain specified cases which may be appealed to Constantinople.

Each Mutessariflik should have its Court. For the Mudirliks a modification of the present Medjliss might be utilized for the present.

The languages of the Christian populations should be recognized as official as well as Turkish in these Courts.

All criminal as well as civil cases should come before these Courts, and no executive officer should have power to punish any person who has not been regularly tried and convicted.

All these courts should be open and public.

This reform of the judiciary will be more difficult than any other to accomplish, but it is, perhaps, as essential as difficult.

The prejudices and the pecuniary interest of the Ulemas must be overcome, and at the outset a large European element introduced, as in Egypt. Law schools should also be immediately established for the training of both Turks and Christians as Judges and Barristers in these Courts.

3. The Executive Department of the Government should be opened to Christians on the same terms as to Turks, and the principle of self-government and decentralisation applied as follows: Every Christian town should have a Christian Government, every mixed town a Governor from the larger nationality, and a Deputy-Governor from the smaller, with a mixed Council, half Christians and half Mussulmans. The same principle should be applied to the vilayets.

The police force should be organized on the same plan.

The executive officers should be appointed for a specified term and should be

liable to removal only by regular impeachment for misconduct or on petition by the people.

As the Porte seems inclined to introduce the elective system all officers below Mutessarif might be chosen by the people, the higher officers to be appointed as now by the Central Government.

The official language should be Christian as well as Turkish.

These changes might be made at once, for there is just as good material among the Christians for filling these offices as among the Turks. The men now filling these offices are generally uneducated, and even a Vali is sometimes found unable to write.

4. *Taxation.*—The principal evils of the present system are:—1. The method of collecting by farming. 2. The people pay far more than the Government receives. 3. The unequal distribution. 4. The consequently excessive amount paid, which is ruining the Empire.

As a remedy we would propose: The total and immediate abolition of farming of the tithes and other taxes. The payment in money and not in kind of all taxes. The collection of the taxes by the people themselves in each village, and in each Mahalleh of the larger towns through an officer chosen by themselves, and who shall deliver to each taxpayer a receipt in his language for the full amount paid. The publication by the posting up in a conspicuous place or by means of a register open to the public of the exact amount paid by each person in each village and mahalleh.

A new apportionment of the taxes based upon the actual receipts of the Malieh for the last five years. A Mixed Commission of European Turks and Christians to take these actual receipts as a basis of apportionment first to the vilayets, then to the Mutessarifliks, the Kaimakamliks, Mudirliks, villages, and Mahallehs, the average of actual receipts for the last five years to be the amount paid by the people in the manner mentioned above.

This scheme is perfectly practicable, and would meet the wants of the people by doing away with existing evils.

5. *Education.*—Each nationality should be left perfectly free to manage its own educational arrangements in its own way and pay its own expenses. Whatever may be the general principles on this subject which are applicable to the nations of Europe, absolute freedom of education is the only possible principle which the Central Government of Turkey can adopt.

6. *Religious liberty.*—There must be an absolute equality of all religions before the law—perfect freedom of worship to all—freedom to build places of worship without any interference on the part of the Government, freedom to change one's faith, freedom to express religious opinions and to print and sell religious books.

There should be, in short, the abolition of all ecclesiastical interference in civil affairs, and of all Governmental interference in ecclesiastical affairs, and complete protection should be secured for all against any persecution, abuse, or civil disability on account of religious opinions.

7. *Legislation.*—We see no special objection to Midhat Pasha's scheme of a national Parliament, except in its details. It would appear that its chief object is to limit the absolute power of the Sultan. It is not likely to be more inefficient than the present Grand Council, and it may be an improvement upon it, and might be tried if it is understood that it does not stand in the way of real reform. It should consist, however, of an equal number of Moslem and non-Moslem members, and should fairly represent all the nationalities and religions recognised in the Empire.

Such is a very brief statement of what we consider essential reforms, without which there can be no possibility of lasting peace or prosperity in the Empire. The Christian population have advanced so far in education and in acquaintance with the condition of other people, that the Turkish Government, as now administered, has become intolerable to them. It is for the evident interest of all classes, Mussulman and non-Mussulman, that such changes should be made at once as would satisfy the different nationalities, and give room for further progress.

These reforms are needed in Asia as well as in Europe, but there are special conditions in the latter which make it easy and more essential that they be immediately applied to the whole of European-Turkey.

Our excuse for presenting this memoir to your Excellency is that we have lived for twenty years in this country in constant and intimate relations with the people. We believe that we can represent their wishes, and you know also how heartily we sympathise with the nation and Government which you represent.

(Signed) GEORGE WASHBURN.
ALBERT L. LONG.

No. 347.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 1265.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 9, 1876.

ALTHOUGH, with a view to avoiding anything having the appearance of a menace against Russia, the Porte, upon my advice, decided not to send a squadron into the Black Sea, it is not without uneasiness about the possibility of a *coup de main* being attempted, by which a Russian force might be landed within a short distance of the capital, upon which it could march unopposed.

I have informed your Lordship that the whole of the ships belonging to the Black Sea Navigation Company are kept at home, and could be available at a moment's notice for the conveyance of a large army.

The Turkish ships of war, which were intended for the Black Sea, have been ordered to the Upper Bosphorus at Buyukdéré, or Beicos; but I understand that even this measure of ordinary precaution is represented at the Russian Embassy as an offensive demonstration.

General Ignatiew spoke to me yesterday of any military preparations which had been made by Russia having been caused by the threatening language of Admiral Hobart, and said that, having been asked by his Government when at Livadia whether he could engage that Turkey would not attack Russia, he had answered that he could guarantee nothing as long as such "filibusters" as Midhat Pasha and Admiral Hobart had any voice in public affairs.

I remarked that at the time he alluded to Admiral Hobart was on the coast of Crete without any one about him to whom he could hold threatening language, and that every one who knew anything of the situation of the country was aware how little it entered into the thoughts of the Porte to begin an attack upon Russia.

The attempt to represent Turkey as the aggressive party would be ludicrous if the case were not so serious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 348.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 1266. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a memorandum upon the present military position of this country, drawn up by an officer who has good opportunities of being acquainted with it.

His views respecting the proper course to be adopted by Turkey in the event of an attack by Russia are not, however, approved by Colonel Baker, whose opinions are perhaps more valuable.

The Porte is, I understand, making every effort to complete its military preparations; and the new levy that has been ordered is expected to produce about 120,000 men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Enclosure in No. 348.

Memorandum respecting the present Military Condition of Turkey.

LA Turquie a actuellement près de 480 bataillons d'infanterie sous les armes, dont 315 opèrent contre la Serbie, le Monténégro et en Bosnie; 18 bataillons tiennent garnison en Epire et en Thessalie, 16 à Constantinople, 12 dans le reste de la Turquie d'Europe, 15 dans l'Ile de Crète, 4 dans la Province de Tripoli de Barbarie, 12 en Syrie, 20 dans la Province de Yemen, 20 dans celle de Bagdad, et 48 dans le rayon du 4ième corps d'armée qui renferme le théâtre de guerre éventuel en Asie.

Vu la dislocation de ces troupes et l'effectif faible des bataillons qui opèrent

depuis des mois contre l'ennemi, la Turquie n'est pas actuellement dans l'état de pouvoir opposer des forces suffisantes à une invasion Russe, contre laquelle elle devrait, pour établir une résistance sérieuse et efficace, avoir à sa disposition une armée d'au moins 100,000 hommes bien commandés en Asie et une autre bien plus forte en Europe.

Le Gouvernement Turc, en prévoyance de complications graves, a donné il y a quelque temps l'ordre de faire une nouvelle levée parmi les redevables de service dans la réserve (Rédif) non appelés jusqu'à présent sous les armes, dans le but d'en former 150 nouveaux bataillons. Cette mesure a de graves inconvénients et ne servira pas à atteindre le but dans un court laps de temps, parce qu'il n'existe pas du tout des cadres pour ces nouveaux bataillons et que les individus appelés sous les armes n'ont presque tous pas servi antérieurement dans l'armée. Il se recommendrait plutôt de profiter de la nouvelle levée pour augmenter l'effectif des 400 bataillons se trouvant actuellement dans la Turquie d'Europe; amoindri généralement de beaucoup quant à tous les bataillons qui ont pris part à la guerre, et dans le rayon du 4ème corps en Asie, jusqu'au chiffre de 1,000 à 1,200 hommes par bataillon, pour lequel les cadres actuels suffiraient, soit même qu'il est supérieur à l'effectif règlementaire, qui n'est que de 800 hommes par bataillon, mais avec 27 officiers, tandis que par exemple le bataillon Allemand n'a pour 1,000 hommes que 23 officiers.

De cette manière on réussirait, vu les aptitudes naturelles des Turcs, de faire des individus composant la nouvelle levée en peu de temps de bons soldats, et on créerait en même temps des forces suffisantes pour remplir la tâche éventuelle.

Il serait d'un grand avantage militaire pour la Turquie si elle réussissait par l'entremise de quelques Puissances amies de conclure pendant l'armistice la paix au moins avec le Monténégro en lui faisant des concessions. Dans le cas contraire elle agirait prudemment si à la fin de l'armistice de nouveaux adversaires lui surgissent en renonçant à l'offensive contre ce pays. Alors 30,000 hommes lui suffiraient pour une énergique défensive. Autre 35,000 hommes devraient rester en Bosnie—employés en partie comme jusqu'à présent contre la Serbie—et en Herzégovine; 50,000 hommes seraient destinés à abattre la dernière résistance de la Serbie, qui en partie deviendraient probablement après un peu de temps disponibles pour être utilisés sur la ligne du Danube où deux grandes armées devraient opérer. Celle de l'Ouest jetterait un corps assez fort pour une opération indépendante sur la rive (droite?) du Danube, et ferait occuper par lui la petite Wallachie, sitôt que la Russie violerait ouvertement la neutralité de la Roumanie, ce qui serait inévitable si elle déclare la guerre à la Turquie, la mer noire devant de fait rester fermée pour elle ou que ce pays même provoquerait on commencerait les hostilités; le reste de l'armée opérerait d'après les circonstances principalement sur la rive (gauche?) du Danube dans l'ouest de la Bulgarie. La force de cette armée serait de 60,000 hommes à peu près. Celle de l'est forte de 75,000 s'appuyerait sur le quadrilatère formé par les quatre places fortes de Roustchouk, Silistria, Varna, et Choumla, sans s'enfermer cependent dans cet espace, mais aussi sans vouloir défendre directement tout le Dobroudja, ce qui aurait un dangereux éparpillement des forces pour conséquence. Il serait prudent d'avoir 20,000 en Thessalie prêts de marcher à la frontière pour le cas que la Grèce voulait entrer en action. 30,000 hommes resteraient en garnison à Constantinople et dans quelques villes de l'intérieur.

Sur le théâtre de la guerre en Asie les places fortes d'Ardahan, de Kars, et d'Erzeroum facilitent la défense contre une invasion Russe. (Parmi toutes les places fortes de l'Empire c'est celle d'Erzeroum avec ses forts détachés qui représente le plus le type d'une fortification d'après le nouveau système; sa construction, qui a été commencée il y a une douzaine d'années, est presque entièrement achevée. Les ouvrages d'Ardahan sont de même entièrement nouveaux, mais pas projetés sur une si grande échelle que ceux d'Erzeroum et pas tous achevés. La place de Kars a été rendue plus forte depuis la guerre de Crimée par la construction de quelques forts détachés. Dans la Turquie d'Europe la construction de forts détachés mais qui n'ont pas été tous achevés a été aussi projetée pour les places fortes de Choumla, Varna, et Roustchouk). 25,000 hommes suffiraient pour la défense de Kars et d'Ardahan; l'armée de campagne forte de 50,000 hommes opérerait entre les rivières Kour et Araxes; 15,000 hommes couvriraient son flanc droit et observeraient la route d'Erzeroum à Bayézid, et 10,000 défendraient Batoum, objet d'une convoitise spéciale de la part de la Russie, et les défilés presqu'inaccessibles le long du cours inférieur de la Rivière Djorouk.

Bien entendu aux troupes susmentionnées destinées à opérer en Europe comme en Asie, devrait être joint le nombre proportionné de cavalerie et d'artillerie. Les

irréguliers choisis régulièrement, organisés et bien disciplinés, pourraient encore servir à augmenter considérablement les forces, surtout les Circassiens, et en Asie spécialement les Kurdes fourniraient un matériel précieux pour le service comme cavalerie légère. L'artillerie qui est représentée par cinq régiments de campagne et deux de réserve, avec près de 600 canons, étant relativement très-faible, il serait à désirer que le Gouvernement en profite des canons Krupp nombreux qui se trouvent dans l'arsenal de Topkané pour former un nombre de nouvelles batteries.

D'après les expériences que l'armée Turque a faites encore tout nouvellement, il paraît absolument nécessaire pour remédier autant que possible au manque absolu d'un train organisé, et pour rendre les armées plus capables d'opérer, d'improviser un service régulier de transport, soit par chariots, soit par bêtes de somme. Chaque corps doit pouvoir disposer d'un nombre déterminé de colonnes de transport commandées et surveillées par des officiers et des sous-officiers de cavalerie et d'artillerie. De même il faudrait pourvoir à ce que des équipages de ponts fussent adjoints à chaque armée. La formation de brigades d'infanterie et de cavalerie, ainsi que des divisions des trois armes réunis dans chaque corps, servirait aussi à faciliter les opérations.

Le service d'intendance se trouvant en désarroi dans l'armée Turque, il serait indispensable d'établir dès à présent, dans les endroits convenables, sur les théâtres de guerre éventuels, des dépôts de blé et de farine, et de tous les objets nécessaires d'habillement, comme aussi d'armement et de munitions, et surtout d'approvisionner les places fortes pour toute la durée probable de la guerre.

Si le Gouvernement Turc se montre à la hauteur de la situation, et qu'il emploie l'énergie nécessaire, il pourrait donc réussir à préparer, dans le courant de quelques mois, une résistance efficace contre une invasion Russe éventuelle, mais il est à craindre qu'il ne prenne des mesures insuffisantes, surtout l'état financier du pays étant tel qu'il est.

No. 319.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November 17.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 8 Novembre*, 1876.

PAR ma dépêche télégraphique du 12 Octobre, je vous ai communiqué la note adressée à Messieurs les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople relativement à l'armistice de six mois proposé par la Sublime Porte et ayant pour but la suspension des hostilités avec la Serbie et le Monténégro.

Votre Excellence sait qu'à la suite de cette note le Cabinet Impérial de St. Pétersbourg avait proposé aux autres Puissances Médiatrices d'assigner un terme de six semaines à cet armistice. Une entente n'était pas encore établie à ce sujet entre les Gouvernements, lorsque M. le Général Ignatiew est arrivé à Constantinople.

Le Grand Vézir avait insinué à l'Ambassadeur de Russie que la Sublime Porte pourrait accepter le terme de six semaines si on prenait l'engagement de le prolonger de six autres semaines dans le cas où la paix ne viendrait pas à être conclue à l'expiration du premier terme, et de le faire suivre d'un autre terme de deux mois, si l'on en tombait pas d'accord même à la fin du second délai. Le Général prenant cette combinaison comme base des négociations, avait chargé M. Onou de proposer au Grand Vézir une rédaction contenant certaines conditions relatives à la prolongation éventuelle des termes convenus. Vous trouverez, ci-jointe, la copie de ce projet.

Le Conseil des Ministres appelé à examiner cette rédaction, considérant que la prolongation de chaque terme dépendrait de la tournure des négociations de la paix, et que les conditions proposées n'offraient aucune garantie pour la prolongation des différents termes de l'armistice, a cru devoir y apporter quelques amendements dans le but d'en assurer la durée au moins pendant cinq mois. Vous trouverez également, ci-près, la copie de ce projet d'arrangement sub Litt. B.* Mais l'Ambassadeur de Russie ne voulant pas accepter les réserves ajoutées à ces propositions, a adressé à la Sublime Porte un autre projet que je joins à cette dépêche sub Litt. C.†

Devant l'insistance du Cabinet Impérial de St. Pétersbourg pour la conclusion d'un armistice pur et simple de six semaines auxquelles des instructions ultérieures de Livadia ont, dans l'intervalle, ajouté deux autres semaines, nous avons cru devoir accepter ce dernier projet en y introduisant, toutefois, en vertu d'une entente préalable

* See Inclosure in No. 326. † See Inclosure in No. 324.

intervenue entre le Grand Vézir et le Général Ignatiew, une clause relative aux bandes d'insurgés qui ne cessent de dévaster le pays et de troubler le repos et la tranquillité de ses habitants. Cependant l'expédition *in extenso* à Livadia par la voie télégraphique de ce projet d'arrangement ayant coïncidé avec la réception de la nouvelle d'une victoire remportée par les troupes Impériales et de la défaite des Serbes dans une sanglante bataille livrée près d'Alexinatz, le Cabinet de Russie a rejeté cet arrangement qu'il a appelé conditionnel et a donné à son Ambassadeur l'ordre d'adresser à la Sublime Porte sous forme d'ultimatum une note officielle pour lui proposer l'acceptation d'un armistice pur et simple de six semaines à deux mois et de quitter Constantinople si dans l'espace de quarante-huit heures elle ne voulait y souscrire.

Désireux de donner, dans cette circonstance encore, à l'Europe une nouvelle preuve de nos sentiments de conciliation et de notre désir ardent de conserver nos rapports d'amitié et de bon voisinage avec le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, nous nous sommes empressés d'accéder à cette proposition bien qu'elle nous eût été faite d'une manière un peu péremptoire. Je vous transmets, ci-joint sub Litt. D et E,* copie de la correspondance échangée à ce sujet entre mon Département et le Général Ignatiew. Ainsi l'armistice étant conclu, les Représentants des Puissances Médiatrices ont désigné leurs délégués pour la démarcation de la zône de neutralisation.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 349.

M. Onou to the Grand Vizier.

(Particulière.)
Altesse, *Le 5/17 Octobre*, 1876.

CONFORMEMENT au vœu que vous avez bien voulu exprimer ce matin dans la conversation avec le Général, je suis chargé, en vue du Conseil de demain, de vous faire part de certaines considérations qui vous démontreront combien l'Ambassadeur est désireux de concourir à l'œuvre de la pacification; d'après nos renseignements, la nouvelle boucherie d'Alexinatz est restée sans résultat pour la suite des opérations. Toutes ces terribles pertes d'hommes sont inutiles. Du côté du Monténégro, Medun est tombé, assure-t-on, au pouvoir des Montagnards, ce qui pourrait provoquer une action offensive de leur part. Il devient donc urgent de mettre immédiatement un terme à l'effusion du sang en proclamant l'armistice avec une ligne de démarcation à tracer par les Agents Militaires des Puissances afin de séparer les combattants et d'empêcher à l'avenir toute nouvelle agression.

A Livadia on insiste plus que jamais sur la conclusion immédiate d'un armistice de six semaines. On pourrait donc accorder la manière de voir de votre Altesse avec celle de Livadia en formulant l'armistice de la manière suivante:—

"Un armistice avec ligne de démarcation sous la surveillance d'officiers étrangers délégnés *ad hoc* jusqu'au 15 Novembre ou 1 Décembre, vieux style, afin de pouvoir arriver à la pacification durant ce laps de temps. Si, contre toute attente, le résultat désiré n'était pas obtenu jusqu'à l'expiration de ce délai, les Puissances conviendraient de renouveler l'armistice pour six autres semaines, quitte à le renouveler une troisième fois pour deux mois encore, si la nécessité en était reconnue."

De cette façon, les cinq mois seraient obtenus sans entourer l'armistice de conditions qui ne feraient que compliquer l'œuvre de la pacification et provoquer des discussions oiseuses avant même de faire le premier pas si important.

L'Ambassadeur serait très-désireux d'avoir à communiquer à Livadia un moment plus tôt une réponse favorable à ce sujet, ce qui ne manquerait pas de détendre la situation.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) ONOU.

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* See Inclosure in No. 333.

Inclosure 2 in No. 349.

*Form of Armistice proposed by the Porte.**

(Ad. Litt. B.)

POUR mettre un terme aux maux de la guerre un armistice de deux mois est conclu sur la médiation des Puissances, à partir du

Par conséquent, les hostilités cesseront dès ce moment sur tout le théâtre de la guerre; des délégués seront nommés de la part des Puissances Garantes et envoyé immédiatement sur les lieux des hostilités en Serbie et au Monténégro pour procéder aux opérations de démarcation.

Si, contre toute attente, une paix durable n'était pas conclue jusqu'à l'expiration de ce délai, et si le cours des négociations l'exigeait, un nouveau délai de six semaines sera établi. Après quoi, l'armistice pourrait être encore prolongé de six semaines, selon ce qui serait convenu entre la Sublime Porte et toutes les Puissances Garantes.

Les bandes qui se trouvent en dehors des lignes de démarcation, tant en Bosnie qu'en Herzégovine, et dans d'autres localités, et qui troublent constamment le repos et la tranquillité de ces provinces, seront sommées par le Gouvernement Impérial de quitter le pays dans l'espace d'une semaine; dans le cas où elles ne se conformeront pas à cette sommation elles seront poursuivies par les troupes Ottomanes.

Inclosure 3 in No. 349.

Further Draft of Form of Armistice.†

(Ad. Litt. C.)

UNE longue incertitude étant nuisible aux intérêts commerciaux, industriels, et financiers de toute l'Europe, et préjudiciable à la prompte conclusion d'une paix durable que toutes les Puissances désirent, un armistice pur et simple est conclu (dès Vendredi prochain) sur tout le théâtre des hostilités, et durera jusqu'au $\frac{1}{13}$ Décembre. Si, contre toute attente, une paix durable n'était pas établie jusqu'à l'expiration de ce délai, et, si le cours des négociations l'exigeait, un nouveau délai de six semaines sera établi immédiatement, après quoi l'armistice pourrait être encore prolongé de deux mois, selon ce qui serait convenu entre la Sublime Porte et toutes les Puissances Garantes.

No. 350.

Instructions concernant le Mode d'Election provisoire et pour un an des Membres qui doivent composer l'Assemblée Nationale de l'Empire.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November 17, 1876.)

EN vertu d'un Iradé Impérial, qui confirme la décision du Grand Conseil, la Constitution d'un Parlement, qui siégera dans la capitale et dont la Loi Organique et le règlement intérieur sont déjà en voie d'élaboration, a été décrétée.

Les dispositions suivantes ont été arrêtées pour être appliquées pendant la première année et à titre provisoire:—

Article 1. Le Parlement comprendra deux corps distincts, dont l'un sera composé des députés légalement issus du suffrage populaire et qui auront pour attributions de délibérer sur les projets de loi dont l'esprit sera en harmonie avec les dispositions du Cher'i, et qui répondront aux besoins légitimes du pays. Ils auront, en outre, à discuter et à voter le budget des recettes et des dépenses de l'Empire.

Ce grand corps de l'Etat s'appellera Chambre des Députés et sera composé, pour la première année, de cent trente membres au moins. La seconde Assemblée sera composée des membres nommés par l'Etat et aura pour attributions de délibérer sur les lois votées par la Chambre des Députés, de les confirmer, d'après les dispositions des règlements organiques qui seront promulgués à cet effet, ou de les renvoyer à la Chambre des Députés pour être modifiées ou amendées.

Ce corps délibératif sera nommé Sénat ou Chambre des Seigneurs.

Art. 2. L'élection des membres de la Chambre des Députés se fera par les sujets de toutes les classes de l'Empire et d'après une loi électorale, qui sera ultérieurement promulguée. Toutefois, vu la nécessité de procéder sans retard à la création et au fonctionnement de cette Assemblée, les élections provinciales seront faites exception-

* See Inclosure 1 in No. 326.
† See Inclosure in No. 324.

nellement cette année par les conseils administratifs des chefs-lieux de vilayets, de sandjaks et de cazas qui, étant déjà issus du suffrage populaire donneront, au choix fait par eux des députés qu'ils enverront au Parlement de l'Empire, la même valeur que celle que comporte le suffrage direct de la nation.

Art. 3. Les conditions exigibles pour être élu député sont, d'après les prescriptions du Hatt Impérial, les suivantes:

De jouir, en premier lieu, de la confiance et de l'estime publiques; de posséder les principes de la langue officielle de l'Empire; d'être âgé au moins de 25 ans; de jouir de tous les droits civils et politiques et d'être plus ou moins contribuable envers l'Etat comme propriétaire.

Tout sujet de l'Empire, se trouvant dans ces conditions, a les qualités requises pour être élu député.

Tout fonctionnaire rétribué du Gouvernement, qui sera élu et qui aura accepté son mandat, devra donner sa démission du poste qu'il occupe dans la hiérarchie.

Les députés d'un vilayet ne pourront pas être considérés comme les représentants exclusifs de ce même vilayet, ni d'une fraction quelconque de la nation, mais bien comme les representants de la nation entière.

Art. 4. Des listes seront dressées déterminant le nombre des députés que chaque vilayet sera appelé à élire pour la présente année.

Les membres électifs des Conseils Administratifs de tous les cazas, ainsi que des chefs-lieux des sandjaks, compris dans un vilayet, peuvent individuellement prendre part à l'élection des députés.

Cette élection sera faite de la manière suivante:

Avant de procéder à l'élection des députés dans chaque vilayet, le Gouverneur-Général enverra à tous les Mutessarifs et Caïmacams de sa juridiction des instructions identiques au modèle ci-annexé, dans lesquelles il désignera le nombre des députés Musulmans et non-Musulmans qui doivent être élus et il indiquera dans ses détails le mode d'élection qui devra être suivi.

Conformément à ces instructions, les members des Conseils d'Administration inscriront, chacun sur un bulletin, un nombre déterminé de candidats Musulmans et non-Musulmans, choisis parmi les habitants du vilayet et possédant les qualités spécifiées à l'Article 5.

Les membres des Conseils d'Administration, après avoir préparé ces bulletins indépendamment de toute intervention des autorités gouvernementales, et les avoir signés ou revêtus de leur cachet, les remettront, sous enveloppe cachetée, au Caïmacam.

Les bulletins remis séparément par les membres des Conseils de Cazas au Caïmacam et par ceux des Conseils de Sandjaks au Mutessarif, seront expédiés au vali sans être décachetés.

Lorsque tous les cazas et sandjaks auront ainsi expédié leurs bulletins au chef-lieu du vilayet, les membres du Conseil d'Administration de ce chef-lieu donneront aussi leurs votes électifs d'après le mode ci-dessus établi. Un comité de scrutateurs, qui pourra compter jusqu'à quinze membres, sera formé sous la présidence du vali et composé des notabilités du vilayet, des ulémas et des chefs spirituels des différentes communautés. Les bulletins d'élection seront décachetés et dépouillés en présence de ce comité. Les personnes qui auront réuni la majorité des votes seront élues suivant le nombre des députés fixé pour le vilayet et respectivement pour chaque catégorie de ses habitants. Mais, dans le cas où il y aurait parité des voix, il sera procédé au scrutin de ballottage. Les personnes élues seront aussi tôt informées du résultat du scrutin.

Les bulletins d'élection, accompagnés de tableaux spécialement dressés, seront expédiés par les valys à la Sublime Porte et seront, pour la première année seulement, vérifiés par le Conseil d'Etat.

Art. 5. L'ouverture de la session de la Chambre des Députés est fixée au 1er Décembre de chaque année; mais, pour cette fois, elle aura lieu au 1er Mars et la session durera au moins trois mois.

Les députés élus se rendront à Constantinople, munis chacun d'une lettre du Gouverneur-Général et d'un rapport du comité des scrutateurs constatant le nombre de suffrages qu'ils auront obtenu et le chiffre de la majorité qui aura déterminé leur élection.

Art. 6. La ville de Constantinople et la banlieue seront divisées en vingt circonscriptions électorales.

Chaque circonscription sera appelée à choisir deux délégués-électeurs. Il sera formé dans chaque circonscription une commission qui invitera individuellement tous

les habitants, sujets Ottomans, contribuables comme propriétaires et au-dessus de vingt-cinq ans, à procéder au choix de deux délégués qui seront chargés de l'élection des députés.

Ces habitants réunis feront inscrire sur le registre de la Commission les noms de leur choix pour les délégués-électeurs.

Les deux personnes qui réuniraient à la suite de cette formalité la majorité des suffrages, seront déclarées comme ayant été nommées délégués-électeurs.

Les délégués, ainsi élus des vingt circonscriptions électorales, se réuniront dans le local désigné ultérieurement par le Gouvernement et, conformément au mode d'élection suivi par les Conseils Administratifs des Vilayets, ils inscriront sur un bulletin les noms des candidats choisis parmi les habitants de Constantinople et remplissant les conditions requises par l'Article 3.

Ces bulletins, signés ou revêtus du cachet des délégués-électeurs, seront expédiés sous enveloppe cachetée et par le canal du préfet de la ville au Conseil d'Etat, qui en fera la vérification dans la forme adoptée et suivie dans les chefs-lieux des vilayets.

Les candidates dont les noms auront obtenu la majorité des suffrages seront proclamés députés, et il leur sera délivré un mandat spécial.

Art. 7. Les députés recevront une indemnité de trois mille piastres, à dater du jour de leur arrivée à Constantinople. Leurs frais de voyage pour se rendre dans la capitale et pour s'en retourner chez eux seront payés par les caisses provinciales, en conformité du règlement concernant les frais de déplacement de fonctionnaires qui reçoivent un traitement équivalant à celui des députés. Ces frais seront évalués d'après la distance. Lorsque les deux tiers des députés seront réunis à Constantinople, la session pourra être ouverte par Iradé Impérial, sans qu'il soit nécessaire d'attendre l'arrivée des absents.

Constantinople, le 10 *Chéval*, 1293 (*le* $\frac{10}{18}$ *Octobre*, 1876).

No. 351.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 17.)

(No. 201. Political.)

Belgrade, November 10, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed by me on the 7th instant to Sir Henry Elliot respecting the reasons why Servia ought to desire conclusion of definite peace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 351.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Belgrade, November 7, 1876.

Sir,

NOTHING could be more lamentable than the ruin and misery brought on this Principality in consequence of the prolongation of the war far beyond the intention of the original projectors of it.

When the war first broke out, leading partizans of such a move asserted that it could not last beyond two months, as the resources of Servia would not allow of its prolongation beyond such a period.

Not only have the villages had to supply men and money, but the commissariat and transport services have been exclusively provided by requisitions. The last harvest has remained to rot in the fields over a vast tract of the country, and an equally considerable tract of land remains unsown.

Besides the natives of the land, there are thousands of Bulgarian and Bosnian refugees, who have sought shelter, running away from their own devastated homes and seeking for security at some distance beyond the actual scene of warlike operations. The Exchequer is exhausted; the desolation and ruin appears general, and the most natural thing to suppose would be that the rulers of the country would at once seize the first opportunity to close the door to all further complications, by endeavouring to restore peace and tranquillity to the Principality, and by seeking to detach peace

with Servia from the general question of the pacification of the Slav provinces of Turkey.

Some such hope was in the mind of these very Rulers when they applied for the good offices of the Powers on August 24th, 1876. At that time it was doubtful whether the Porte would be willing to offer fair and generous terms of reconciliation; but the negotiations carried on since, if they have not produced any other result, have, at least, brought about a general understanding among the Powers that it would be desirable to restore to Servia the *status quo ante bellum* in the general interests of Europe.

Since the last defeats the Russian agents here are sedulously endeavouring to instil a disbelief that the Porte will now be as yielding on that question as she was some weeks ago.

It is evident that these persons continue, for some sinister object, to sow distrust in the minds of those Servians who would like to see peace restored, and to keep the Servian question unsettled and precarious for some time longer.

This cannot be, this ought not to be, the real interest of any well-wishers to Servia, nor of those European statesmen who are desirous of preserving the East of Europe from fresh calamities and unknown perils.

If the fate of this Principality could, as regards its relations to the Suzerain Power, be restored to the condition existing prior to this war, no prejudice would be caused to any other question now under discussion with Turkey, and even Russia can have no proper interest in keeping a question open which is nothing but a bleeding sore in a country in which she professes to take so deep an interest.

Should the Emperor of Russia ultimately determine to send troops against the Porte, the present exhausted condition of Servia debars it from any value, either as an ally or as a basis for operations. Moreover, the recent loss of the important position about Deligrad and the proximity to the territories of a military Power such as Austria would render such an experiment highly hazardous unless Russia could be previously assured of the connivance or co-operation of the latter Power.

There appears, therefore, every inducement, whether from motives of humanity or sound policy, to allow Servia to conclude a separate peace under the mediation of the Powers by signing a Protocol to that effect at Constantinople.

A couple of weeks ago, when the late disaster of the Servian army appeared approaching, it was thought likely that Prince Milan would apply for such a termination of his differences with the Porte directly to Constantinople as soon as the loss of Alexinatz should become known.

But, though some hesitation was apparent as following on that Turkish victory, it is now clear that, from the influence exercised by M. Karlzoff in the Prince's councils, that no step, however salutary for Servia, will be taken unless approved of and supported by that Representative of the Emperor of Russia, who has gradually superseded all his other colleagues, and even some influential Servians, and has succeeded in finally establishing his own influence in their stead.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 352.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 202. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, November 10, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed by me on the 8th instant to Sir Henry Elliot respecting the projected visit of General Tchernaieff to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 352.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, November 8, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that General Tchernaieff returned to Belgrade last night and is about to proceed to Russia in a few days, accompanied, it is said, by a deputation of Russian and Servian officers, who have served under him here, and who will probably seek to stir up sympathy for the Panslavic cause in Russian society.

Before handing over the command of his army, or, rather, the remnants thereof, to Colonel Horvatovitch, General Tchernaieff addressed an allocution to the Russian officers who had followed him here at his bidding; he begged of them to continue steadfast to the cause they were serving, and to return to Servia after a short holiday; before the end of the armistice, he asked them not to speak badly of the shortcomings of the Servians, whether officers or men, and to consider that this struggle was sure to be renewed shortly, and that with far more powerful Russian assistance.

The General promises to be back here in three weeks. The public here continues in apathetic indifference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 353.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 436.)
My Lord, *Rome, November 14, 1876.*

IN a conversation which I had to-day with Signor Melegari, I asked his Excellency if he had taken any determination in regard to the appointment of a Special Plenipotentiary to the Conference at Constantinople.

His Excellency said that he felt no slight difficulty in doing so. In the first place, he did not exactly know who to send. Satisfied as he was, and confiding entirely as he did, in the ability of Count Corti, he should be loth to put any one over his head; on the other hand, he did not see the utility of naming a Plenipotentiary who would be second to him. Under all circumstances, therefore, he thought that, for the preliminary discussions, at all events, the Italian Government would be content with one Representative—their present Minister at Constantinople. If, at the formal Conference, all the other Powers had two Plenipotentiaries, he would endeavour to find some one to act with Count Corti.

I asked his Excellency what he thought of the prospects of peace, especially with reference to the Emperor of Russia's recent speech.

Signor Melegari replied, that he believed a manifesto of a pacific nature was to appear to-day in the official "Journal of St. Petersburgh." He added that his impression was that peace could be preserved, though not through the agency of the Conference, but by a direct understanding between Russia and Turkey, to which the other Powers would be invited to adhere.

I asked his Excellency if he had any information which led him to believe that separate negotiations were going on between the Russian and Turkish Governments. He replied that he had none whatever, but that he thought an understanding between them was to be expected in the natural course of things.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 354.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 778A. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 5, 1876.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this day's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of the note which I have addressed to Count

Andrassy, communicating to his Excellency the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, relative to the composition of a Conference to be held at Constantinople, and the basis for its deliberations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 354.

Sir A. Buchanan to Count Andrassy.

M. le Comte, *Vienna, November 6*, 1876.

WITH reference to the telegram from the Earl of Derby which I read to your Excellency this morning, I have now the honour, in compliance with your request, to communicate to you in writing the substance of the proposals which I have been instructed to make to the Austro-Hungarian Government, in consequence of the Government of the Queen, my Sovereign, having determined to take the initiative, as there appears to be some hesitation about the formal proposal of a Conference for negotiating peace between the Porte and the other parties which have been engaged in hostilities.

The proposals which I have been instructed to submit to your Excellency are the following:—

That a Conference should be held at Constantinople, in which the Guaranteeing Powers and the Porte shall take part, and in which each Government may have two Representatives.

That the bases for the deliberations for the Conference, as suggested by Her Majesty's Government, should be—

1st. The independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

2nd. A declaration that the Powers do not seek for territorial advantages, exclusive influence, or commercial concessions, as in the Protocols, of which copies are inclosed, of September 17, 1840, and August 3, 1860; and

3rd. The terms of the pacification proposed by Sir Henry Elliot, in conformity with instructions addressed to him by the Earl of Derby on the 21st of September last, namely—

(1.) The *status quo*, speaking roughly, both as regards Servia and Montenegro.

(2.) That the Porte should simultaneously undertake, in a Protocol to be signed at Constantinople with the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, to grant to Bosnia and Herzegovina a system of local or administrative autonomy, by which it is to be understood a system of local institutions, which shall give the population some control over their own local affairs, and guarantees against the exercise of arbitrary authority.

There is to be no question of the creation of a tributary State.

Guarantees of a similar kind to be also provided against maladministration in Bulgaria. The exact nature of these might be discussed later, and Sir Henry Elliot was to add that the reforms already agreed to by the Porte in the note addressed to the Representatives of the Powers on the 13th February last will be expected to be included in the administrative arrangements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and so far as they are applicable to Bulgaria.

I am further instructed to state that if the Powers agree to this proposal Her Majesty's Government will at once appoint a special Ambassador to proceed to Constantinople to take part in the Conference, and if desired by the other Powers, Her Majesty's Government would not object to their two Plenipotentiaries joining in preliminary discussions for the opening of the Conference with the Plenipotentiaries of the other five Powers, which discussions should be on the same bases as those proposed for the Conference as they are stated above.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 355.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 803.)

My Lord, *Vienna, November 14*, 1876.

WITH reference to a telegram from your Lordship, dated yesterday, I mentioned to-day to Baron Orczy that Her Majesty's Government have caused the Porte to be informed that they cannot concur in objections to the Conference which had been submitted to your Lordship by the Turkish Ambassador in London.

His Excellency observed in reply that he felt confident the Porte would accept the proposals of Her Majesty's Government when it found that they could neither be amended nor withdrawn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 356.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 16, 1876, midnight.*

EMPEROR ALEXANDER having, it is believed, objected to General Tchernaieff coming back to Russia in any other than a private capacity, some Servian notable will be sent to that Court as Envoy soon, probably M. Marinovitch.

Many Russian volunteers have gone home; and though some acts of violence and brutality are attributed to them, it is almost impossible to bring these home to them. Volunteers have become highly unpopular with the people; those who are willing to remain here, for the present, constitute principal force at Belgrade and in some other towns.

No. 357.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 17*, 1876.

RUSSIA mobilizes six corps d'armée, four of which constitute active army, and two corps d'armée army of observation.

Troops mobilized amount to about 160,000 men and 648 guns.

No. 358.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 17, 1876, 2 P.M.*

COUNT ANDRASSY has been prevented by indisposition from proceeding further than Pesth, where his physicians wish him to remain for two days. It is believed here that he will therefore return to Vienna as soon as he can travel.

No. 359.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 17*, 1876.

AS it appears certain from a telegram just received from the Foreign Office that the Porte will accept the Conference, I am anxious to know if Lord Salisbury is to come to Vienna; and if so, when he may be expected.

No. 360.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 17, 1876, 5·40 P.M.

LORD SALISBURY will probably be at Paris Monday evening.

Procure all facilities.

No. 361.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 17, 1876, 5·20 P.M.

LORD SALISBURY will probably be at Berlin late on Wednesday night, and remain Thursday.

Procure all facilities.

No. 362.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 17, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

LORD SALISBURY will probably be at Vienna Friday evening.

Procure all facilities.

No. 363.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 17, 1876, 6 P.M.

THE German Embassy has informed me that the German Government consent to the English programme for negotiations at Constantinople, and have authorized accordingly the Ambassador, Baron von Werther, to take part there in the deliberations.

No. 364.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November* 17, 1876.

PRINCE BISMARCK writes that he will make it a point to come to Berlin to see Lord Salisbury.

Prince Bismarck would therefore be very much obliged if your Lordship could let him know on what day Lord Salisbury proposes to arrive in Berlin.

No. 365.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 17, 1876, 5·12 P.M.

COUNT ANDRASSY is better, but is not expected here before Sunday.

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[*] Similar telegrams were sent to Lord Lyons, Lord A. Loftus, Sir H. Elliot, and Sir A. Paget.

No. 366.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 17, *at night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November* 17, 1876, 10·38 P.M.

I MENTIONED in my previous telegrams that Emperor would be absent from Berlin from the 22nd to the 25th instant.

Lord Salisbury would not, therefore, find the Emperor at Berlin. His Majesty is most anxious to see his Lordship.

No. 367.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.[*]

(No. 496.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 17, 1876.

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch to Lord Odo Russell acquainting him that I have been officially informed by the German Embassy of the acceptance by Germany of the English programme for the negotiations at Constantinople.[†]

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 368.

Sir C. Wyke to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 111.)

My Lord, *Copenhagen, November* 15, 1876.

THIS morning's number of the "Dagblad," the leading journal of the Danish press, contains the following observations on the present phase of the Eastern Question:—

"Attention will now be concentrated on the attitude of the English Government. Both in Paris and Vienna one is intent upon watching to see whether Disraeli will really abide by the programme unfolded by him at the Guildhall banquet. That it cannot wholly be relied on foregoing experiences have sufficiently illustrated.

"The upshot will depend upon whether the real intention of England, which latterly has looked favourably upon her traditional Eastern policy is steadfast, or whether, with the prospect of war, it will not undergo some fresh change. In the latter case one must be prepared for further vacillation in the English policy, because to an English Ministry the paramount consideration would be how Parliament interpreted the terms 'for the honour of the Empire and its weightiest interests.' Up to the present the public have formed no really decided opinion upon Disraeli's speech; but perhaps, upon the whole, it has made a good impression.

"From the criticism of the press one can hardly draw any certain conclusions, as it, likewise, so far as foreign policy is concerned, sees things from a party point of view. A serious consideration for Disraeli is that the 'Times' loses no opportunity of expressing itself decidedly opposed to his Oriental policy. That journal disapproved of his speech at once; and, according to a telegram which arrived yesterday, it states that even should Russia attack Turkey, public opinion in England would consider Great Britain as little justified in meeting the same by an appeal to arms, as was the case when the Ottoman Empire was attacked by Servia. If the 'Times' is really right in saying that public opinion, as shared by the influential and leading classes, entertained these views, then Disraeli's doughty utterances mean little more than other post-prandial speeches, whose impressions evaporate with the wine with which they are drunk.

"However, without further verification, one cannot for the present identify the 'Times' with public opinion in England. This journal certainly attributes to itself the interpretation of John Bull's feeling and views; but it has not unfrequently been mistaken, and has misrepresented the tone of the public. If this be so in the present case the 'Times' itself will be its own best contradictor, for the moment it perceives an opposing stream it hastens to change the direction of its own current.

"However, it would appear that the opposition of the 'Times' has as yet made

[*] Also to Lord Lyons, Sir H. Elliot, Sir A. Paget, and Lord A. Loftus.

[†] No. 310.

no impression on the English Government, inasmuch as it is stated in a telegram that it has allowed the 'Morning Post' to publish a semi-official statement in the following sense:—"The approaching mobilization of the Russian forces has not astonished any one in this country. England viewed the proposal for a military occupation of Bulgaria merely in the light of a pretext whereby Russia wished to make her endeavours for an extension of territory. The Treaty of Paris justifies England in opposing any invasion of Turkey; meanwhile a conciliatory inquiry into the circumstances at issue is by no means hopeless, since all the interested parties are striving for a peaceful solution."

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES LENNOX WYKE.

No. 369.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, November 18.)

Tsarskoe Sélo, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Novembre, 1876.

LES déplorables événements qui ensanglantent la presqu'île des Balcans ont profondément ému l'Europe. Les Cabinets se sont concertés et ont reconnu la nécessité de mettre un terme à cet état de choses, pour l'honneur de l'humanité et le repos général. Ils ont arrêté l'effusion du sang en imposant un armistice aux deux parties, et sont convenus de fixer les bases sur lesquelles la paix devrait être établie, afin d'offrir aux populations Chrétiennes des garanties sérieuses contre les incorrigibles abus de l'Administration Turque, ainsi que contre l'arbitraire sans frein des fonctionnaires Ottomans, et de rassurer ainsi l'Europe contre le retour périodique de ces crises sanglantes.

Le Cabinet Impérial a contribué de tous ses efforts à constituer le concert des Grandes Puissances en vue d'une question où les intérêts politiques doivent s'effacer devant l'intérêt plus général de l'humanité et du repos Européen. Il ne négligera rien de ce qui peut dépendre de lui afin que cet accord aboutisse à un résultat sérieux et solide, répondant aux exigences de la conscience publique et de la paix générale.

Mais tandis que la diplomatie délibère depuis un an, afin de traduire en faits le concert des volontés de l'Europe, la Porte a eu le loisir de convoquer du fond de l'Asie et de l'Afrique le ban et l'arrière ban des forces les moins disciplinées de l'Islamisme, de soulever le fanatisme Musulman, et d'écraser sous le poids du nombre les populations Chrétiennes en lutte pour leur existence. Les auteurs des horribles massacres qui ont révolté l'Europe, continuent à jouir de l'impunité, et à l'heure qu'il est, leur exemple propage et perpétue dans toute l'étendue de l'Empire Ottoman et sous les yeux de l'Europe indignée les mêmes actes de violence et de barbarie.

Dans ces conjonctures, fermement décidé pour sa part à poursuivre et à atteindre par tous les moyens en son pouvoir le but tracé par le concert des Grandes Puissances, Sa Majesté l'Empereur a jugé nécessaire de mobiliser une partie de son armée.

Sa Majesté Impériale ne veut pas la guerre, et fera ce qui est possible pour l'éviter. Mais elle est résolu à ne point s'arrêter tant que les principes reconnus équitables, humains, nécessaires par l'Europe entière, et auxquels le sentiment public de la Russie s'est associé avec la plus grande énergie, n'auront pas reçu leur entière exécution sanctionnée par des garanties efficaces.

Vous êtes autorisé à donner lecture et à laisser copie de la présente dépêche à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

No. 370.

Memorandum communicated by Count Schouvaloff, November 18, 1876.

NE doutant pas des bonnes dispositions personnelles du Comte Derby, lui demandons publication du compte rendu de Lord Loftus, il nous importerait que la nation Anglaise puisse juger en connaissance de cause, et être édifiée par les paroles mêmes de Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

No. 371.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 18, 2·29 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 17, 1876, 9 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Government have received from their Minister at Tehran and the Governor-General of Turkestan information of Afghan armaments, which are reported by them as directed against Turkomans and Merve; 10,000 men are said to be assembled at Herat, exclusive of cavalry. Cannon foundry established at Herat.

I am informed by Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs that Afghan incursions are taking place in the direction of Wakhan on Bokharan districts, which may produce difficulties with that Khanate. Governor-General is trying to arbitrate between the Turcomans and the Khan of Khiva in order to prevent renunciation of the Government by the Khan in favour of Russia.

Russian Government deny any wish or intention to interfere in the affairs of Afghanistan, but they seem to fear an Afghan expedition against Merve.

No. 372.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 18, 12·50 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 18, 1876, 10·40 A.M.*

M. MARINOVITCH goes to St. Petersburgh to-morrow on a special mission, and the Russian Consul-General goes there at the same time, while the Austrian proceeds to Vienna by order of his Minister for Foreign Affairs.

It is generally admitted here, that Servia is so exhausted as to hardly be able to resume hostilities, and as Russian-Turkish war is believed imminent, and the neutrality of Austria almost assured, an arrangement making provision for the position of Servia in different contingencies will be welcome here.

No. 373.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 18, 1876.*

IT will be a cause of sincere regret to Lord Salisbury that he should miss seeing the Emperor on his passage through Berlin. But it seems impossible for him to delay his journey. The armistice has scarcely a month to run, and every day becomes of importance. Please explain this.

No. 374.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 18, 1876, 4·45 P.M.*

IF all goes well, Lord Salisbury will probably arrive at Constantinople on the 1st or 2nd of December.

You may now instruct Consuls Holmes and Blunt, and any other Consuls of experience whom it may be desirable to consult, to be there to meet him.

No. 375.

Sir C. Wyke to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 18, evening.)

(Telegraphic.) *Copenhagen, November 18, 1876.*

A RUMOUR is repeated here in Court and Ministerial circles that on June 26 last a secret Treaty was signed between Russia and Germany by which the former undertook to cede her Baltic provinces to the latter, provided Germany used not only

* Repeated to Embassies.

her influence but would also bring a pressure to bear on Austria which would prevent that Power from participating in the war.

No. 376.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 779.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1876.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that, according to present arrangements, Lord Salisbury will probably arrive at Constantinople on the 1st or 2nd of December.

I have therefore to request that you will now instruct Consuls Holmes and Blunt, and any other Consuls of experience whom it may be desirable to consult, to proceed there at once in order to meet his Lordship.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 377.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 497. Most Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and told me that he was authorized to give me confidentially the following assurances:—

1stly. That Austria is under no engagements to Russia.

2ndly. That Austria will not adopt a policy of neutrality under all circumstances, but will protect her own interests if she thinks them menaced by any act of Russia.

I expressed to Count Beust my satisfaction at this communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 378

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 18, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November* 18, 1876.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has officially signified to me that, with unanimous sanction of Grand Council, the Porte agrees to Conference.

His Excellency added that the acceptance is accompanied by a few reserves, such as that the measures to be proposed by the Conference shall not interfere with the mechanism of the general administration.

This is done with the view of justifying the Government in the eyes of the Turkish public, but no real importance is attached to it by the Porte.

No. 379.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 528.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the text as published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the circular dispatch of Prince Gortchakow, dated yesterday, which communicated to the Russian Representatives abroad the intention of the Emperor to mobilize a portion of his army with a view to eventualities within the Ottoman dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 379.

Circular addressed by Prince Gortchakow to Russian Representatives abroad, November $\frac{1}{13}$, 1876.

[See No. 369.]

No. 380.

Major-General Walker to Lord Odo Russell.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 19.)

(No. 80. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November* 17, 1876.

THE remark was made to me a few days since, "North Germany is Russian, South Germany is not." To this I am inclined to add, East Prussia and Silesia are not pro-Russian, the rest of the Kingdom of Prussia is. Some of the smaller Courts follow the Berlin lead, others think, as the King of Saxony, who, I have the strongest justification in saying, has no Russian sympathies whatever.

But these are days, as we see even in autocratic Russia, when the opinion of the people has to be considered in the same degree as that of their rulers.

How stands the question of Russia or England in Northern Germany? I fear much as my friend expressed himself—pro-Russian and anti-English.

Where there is no feeling of actual antagonism to England, there is either cold indifference, or, what is still worse, the conviction that England will never be an active enemy to Germany or Germany to England (in which I fully concur), but that we are useless as a friend; that Russia is, under present and prospective circumstances, the latter; and may prove, at some day not at present distinctly foreseen, an even more dangerous enemy than France.

I look upon Berlin and the manufacturing districts of Westphalia and the Rhine as the head-quarters of anti-English feeling. Dantzig, perhaps, at all times; certainly so at present. Königsberg and East Prussia are too near Russia to have any great love for their restrictive neighbour, and this counterbalances the natural jealousy of prosperous commercial England. In Hamburgh and Bremen the state of feeling is divided, but has recently been influenced to some extent by the two cases of the "Deutschland" and "Franconia."

The North German is essentially a pedlar. As I once heard the Emperor say at his own table, "my Berliner is always thinking about groschens;" he is, therefore, jealous of our larger commercial enterprise, and just at present very sore at recent legislation in England. Of this, even, I have become aware. But my present object is to point out why the other than commercial classes turn to Russia rather than to England, and I leave the Rhenish and Westphalia ironmasters and manufacturers to abler hands than mine.

Before writing another word, I hope that I may be permitted to remark that I must be absolved from even the suspicion of a desire to ventilate any opinions of my own. I am merely endeavouring to delineate the view which I have formed of the opinions entertained by the Germans, and of the causes, whether true or false, which they have assumed for the groundwork of these opinions. My only excuses, indeed, for writing at all on the subject of public opinion in Germany with regard to England and Russia are the length of time I have been in the country, and the fact that, when I did so nearly two years since in my No. 90 of 1874, your Lordship was so good as to express approval of my then attempt. I see no cause for making any great alteration in the views which I then expressed.

The old story of the arms question has not been allowed to drop out of remembrance, and, though viewed more reasonably than during the heat of the Franco-German war, is still thoroughly misunderstood.

Quite recently, a civilian friend, with whom I was discussing the question of the feeling towards England which prevailed in Germany, told me quite gravely that he knew a French officer, to whom, I think he said, he was in some way related, who had told him that he was taken, as Agent of the French War Office, round Woolwich in 1870, and was there told that he might have anything he desired out of that arsenal. Now the gentleman who told me this is one of the warmest and most sincere friends of England in this world. I could only, in reply, quote to him Earl Granville's despatch to your Lordship, of the 17th February, 1871, the instructions therein conveyed to myself, and

the explanations which I was desired to offer. I have no doubt that he believed me, but I am quite sure that I did not convince him.

Now if this impression still prevails amongst civilians, it does so to a much greater extent in the army.

There is not much good feeling towards England in the Prussian army; on the whole, I should say the contrary. Our want of recognition of the assistance rendered during the campaign of 1815 by the Prussian army, the false light thrown by historians of the period on the results of that campaign, deeply wounded the national self-esteem, and is to the present day looked on as ungenerous and egotistical. The one writer who has treated the question with critical fairness met with a full meed of grateful acknowledgment, and for a time Colonel Chesney almost succeeded in exciting a feeling of comradeship in the German towards the English army.

The ordinary German officer, who never travels, who has no idea whatever of the enormous material resources of England, and of the power which underlies our spasmodic phases of excitement, or indifference; who has heard a great deal about the selling of commissions, but has no notion of the causes which led to that system, or of the restrictions which regulated it; who reads our carefully published statistics of drunkenness and desertion in the army, and has the contempt of a soldier by compulsion for an army which is sustained by voluntary enlistment, and which he designates "a mercenary force," and, like all Prussians, dislikes what is not cut according to Prussian pattern; the ordinary German officer, I repeat, has very little good-will towards England, and takes care that this impression is duly communicated to the men under his command.

Besides this, there is no good in disguising the fact that brute force is the one thing now worshipped in Germany—North, at any rate; and we do not show strongly in that direction, if the asseverations of our own press are to be believed. The "Times" is quite enough for the ordinary German. He cannot believe in a press whose views are neither controlled by the influence or censorship of the Government, nor is subsidized by a party. The English press tells him that we have an army which can scarcely recruit itself to its full peace strength, and that the reserve, which we rely on to fill up its ranks to a war strength is a myth. An army in this assumed condition meets with but small respect from men who see the resources of a population of 50,000,000 all directed to one end; who belong to a force which numbers 18½ Army Corps, each of greater strength than the two or three which it is supposed we might put into the field, and who look upon the spiteful criticism of "Colburn's Magazine" as a military periodical which represents the semi-official expression of opinion in England.

I am very sorry to say that, at the end of my eleven years' residence in this country, I have formed an opinion less favourable to the chance of a good understanding between Germany and England than was the case during the first five years of that period.

I do not think that the North German is either generous or chivalrous; at any rate, in any case but where German interests or German sympathies are concerned.

It is a character very difficult to define: it is at once practical and unpractical.

Methodical and saving, they spend in junketting to-morrow what they have been weeks in laying by. Peddling in their commercial transactions, they have shown since 1871 into how boundless a desert of childish speculation they are prepared to enter under the smallest possible encouragement. It is a curious fact that the nation in which the deepest thinkers are to be found, is, in a calm and deliberate manner, as much addicted to gambling as the Spaniard of Mexico or Central America,—and that is saying a good deal.

The German is also as greedy of admiration, and as impatient of adverse opinion, as are the citizens of another great nation much further removed from us. Germany has achieved great military successes, and cannot forgive England for believing that great military successes are not the only good to be aspired to by a civilized and progressive nation. The German cannot forgive us for seeing that mere military successes do not advance a nation one step in the race of intellectual or commercial enterprise.

The circumstances which I have mentioned, the train of character which I have endeavoured to define, are the main hindrances to a good feeling towards England.

The "stock Prusse," the Prussian at the core, what between loyalty to the opinion of his Emperor and Commander-in-chief, old subservicncy to Russia, and admiration of vastness, clings to the Russian alliance; the manufacturer and trader, who ignores his own inefficiency, and has been disappointed in the hope of driving English trade and manufactures out of the foreign markets, has no feeling but that of envy and aversion for the nation whose solid work and commercial success is a reproach to himself; and the people at large venerate only those whose expressed opinions are backed by action.

The strongest proof which I am able to adduce of that which I assert is the warm

enthusiasm and expression of goodwill which our undoubted good conduct of the expedition to Abyssinia produced in this country on a more remote occasion; and the rise of England in German opinion which was caused by the purchase of the Suez Canal shares, and the rapidity with which a fleet superior to all other forces in the Mediterranean was collected at Besika Bay.

Am I wrong in expressing the opinion that great hurt has been done to this prestige by the unpatriotic effusions of a portion of the English press, and that if our national, not ministerial, policy were more steady and decided, the self-interested Germans would look upon England as their natural and most desired ally; and that regret is to some extent at the bottom of indifference to England, as now typifying public opinion in this country?

I beg your Lordship to believe that my present endeavour to delineate some of the influences which are working at the present juncture is only dictated by a sincere desire to place at your Lordship's disposal the experiences which long residence and a very large and varied acquaintance have forced on my observation, and by no desire to step out of the purely military sphere which is assigned to me in Her Majesty's Embassy to Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) BEAUCHAMP WALKER,
Military Attaché.

No. 381.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, November 18, 1876.*

A REPORT is current that an encounter, with loss of life on both sides, occurred the day before yesterday at Dinoshi, near Medun, between some Albanian peasants and the Montenegrins.

The last belonged doubtless to the Koutchi tribe, who now consider themselves Montenegrins.

The speedy (?) demarkation of territory held by each side is highly desirable.

No. 382.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19, morning.)*

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Constantinople, November 18, 1876, night.*

FOLLOWING are the conditions which I understand General Ignatiew to consider should be obtained for the insurgent provinces:—

1. Disarmament of Mussulmans.
2. Employment of none excepting native functionaries, chiefly chosen on principle of election.
3. Formation of a local militia and police with Christians in proportion to their numbers.
4. Prohibition of irregulars and expulsion of Circassians to Mussulman provinces.
5. Turkish troops to be confined to the fortresses.
6. Abolition of tithes and settlement of taxes by the people.
7. Official employment of local language.
8. Christian Governors approved by Powers named for five years.
9. Details of local autonomy to be determined after consultation with persons lately sent to Bulgaria by the Embassies.
10. Direct European control over the execution of measures.
11. Severe inquiry with participation of Consuls into late outrages, punishment of the real culprits, and indemnity to the families of the victims.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

No. 383.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 19, 1876.

RUSSIAN squadron in the Mediterranean have sailed for America for security in the event of war.

Russian internal loan for a nominal hundred millions of roubles is officially published in this morning's paper.

No. 384.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November* 19, 1876.

THE Emperor is graciously pleased to say he will endeavour to receive Lord Salisbury on Thursday morning, if possible.

No. 385.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 19, 1876.

I THINK it certain that Count Andrassy will return to Vienna before Friday, but it was only known at the Foreign Office to-day that he is not yet able to leave Pesth.

I shall go there to-morrow with the hope of seeing him, and shall telegraph from thence.

No. 386.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November* 19, 1876.

I HAVE acquainted Baron Orczy with the official acceptance by the Porte, as reported in Sir H. Elliot's telegram of yesterday, of the Conference proposed by Her Majesty's Government.

A telegram on the subject has been already received from the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador which mentioned, among reservations, that Porte would admit of no infringement of independence of the Empire.

No. 387.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 19, 1876, 5 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 9th instant, Lord Salisbury will arrive at Constantinople, if all goes well, on the 1st or 2nd of December. You are to proceed there so as to meet him on his arrival.

No. 388.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 43.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 19, 1876.

I HAVE to inform you that, according to present arrangements, Lord Salisbury will arrive at Constantinople on the 1st or 2nd December, and it is my wish that you should proceed there, so as to be ready to meet his Lordship upon his arrival.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 389.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 85. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, November* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a statement from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter relative to the number of Circassian settlers in Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 389.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Larissa and Volo, November* 1, 1876.

ACCORDING to the closest and most accurate estimate I have been able to obtain,* the following is the number of Circassians, men, women and children, which, up to this time, have come to Thessaly:—

Arrived last year	185	individuals.
" in last May	316	"
" in September	225	"
Total	725	"

And so far as I can ascertain the distribution approximatively yet made of these is:—150 at Balanbati villages, 50 at Loxanda, 300 from Velestino at Armyro villages; total 500 individuals; and leaving, therefore, over 200 more, being the whole of the latest batch arrived, and which, I am given to understand, does not, for the present at least, seem likely to be followed by any others. In the meantime a few of these last-mentioned lot, not liking prospects before them, have left and returned to Constantinople. Others, I am told, were desirous of doing likewise, but were prevented by the authorities because they are under contract with Government, and, until the arrangements can be decided for location of the whole, they remain partly here and partly at Larissa.

There has been much sickness and not indifferent mortality among the last arrived, as well as the settled Circassians. The latter do not appear to commit excesses, but the Christians complain of occasional maltreatment and theft on their part, and even by the Mahommedans, they are looked upon, I believe, as being most objectionable neighbours.

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* This estimate does not include 40 Tartar families, or about 200 individuals, settled in Thessaly in 1875.

No. 390.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 220. Political.)

Cettigné, November 4, 1876.

My Lord,

I WENT to the Palace this morning and spoke to the Prince upon the subject of the mutilations of Turkish soldiers by Montenegrins, to which your Lordship's despatch No. 5 of the 6th ultimo refers.

I told His Highness of the effect produced upon Her Majesty's Government by the reports which they had received, and of which I had explained to him the nature; and I stated to him that I was charged by your Lordship to urge upon him in the strongest possible manner to put a stop to these horrible outrages on humanity in the event of the recommencement of the war.

Prince Nicholas replied that he entirely shared the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government upon this matter, and that nothing was more revolting to him, as a Christian Prince, than that his subjects should have been guilty of such horrors.

At the very outset of the war he had given strict orders against pillage and devastation, as well as against the perpetration of personal outrages, and his orders had been as strictly obeyed, until the Turks at Gatzko set the bad example by killing prisoners in cold blood, and by decapitating and mutilating the dead and wounded.

In the two or three combats that immediately ensued, as soon as these facts were known the Montenegrins had retaliated in kind, but His Highness assured me, on his honour, that he was convinced that the announcement which he had then been compelled to make—that any such act would in future be punished by the execution of the offender—had been successful in putting a stop to this barbarous practice.

I should not be doing justice to His Highness if I did not add that he spoke upon this subject with deep emotion, and that no one who had heard his language and witnessed his manner could have failed to believe, as I do, that the idea that such a reproach could justly be cast upon the Montenegrins caused him the deepest pain, and that he would give much that the brilliancy of his campaign had not been tarnished by the stain of such barbarities.

Colonel Thömmel assures me that, from his own personal observation during the campaign, he can vouch for the truth and accuracy of the Prince's statements.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 391.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 221. Political.)

Cettigné, November 6, 1876.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the letters sent yesterday respecting the armistice by the Montenegrin commanders to Dervish and Moukhtar Pashas. That to the latter was written in Slav; and both are from the dictation of the Prince, and transmitted by telegraph.

General Ignatiew telegraphed yesterday to His Highness that the Porte had made no demand about the revictualling of Niesics, as the garrison is supplied with provisions which will last till the spring.

Signor Durando started this morning for Ragusa to meet the foreign delimitation Delegates; and Colonel Bogolouboff, the Russian Military Agent here, who will represent his Government on the demarkation Commission, will go thither to-morrow or next day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 391.

M. Petrovich to Dervish Pasha.

Rogami, le 21 Octobre / 2 Novembre 1876.

M. le Maréchal,

J'AI reçu de mon Gouvernement en date du 21 Octobre / 2 Novembre l'avis que la Sublime Porte, sur la proposition de la Russie, a accepté la conclusion d'un armistice de deux mois à partir du 20 Octobre / 1 Novembre.

Suivant les ordres que je reçois, je prends les mesures nécessaires pour que, de notre côté, les hostilités soient immédiatement suspendues, et je ne doute pas que votre Excellence en ait fait autant de son côté.

La démarcation des positions respectivement occupées par votre armée et par celle que je commande est facile à établir. Elle doit partir du Sutterman et suivre une ligne tirée sur Sestané au bord du lac de Scutari. Du lac elle doit suivre la limite des deux Etats, jusqu'au confluent de la Zeta et de la Moratcha, puis le pied des hauteurs dans la plaine de Podgoritza jusqu'à la Zievna.

Je ne peux me dispenser de vous dire que j'ai eu le regret de constater par moi même que, le 22/4, la forteresse de Spuz a continué à tirer sur nos positions. Je suis certain que ce ne peut être qu'en contravention de vos instructions, mais je vous serai obligé de donner des ordres stricts pour que le fait ne se renouvelle pas.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) B. PETROVICH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 391.

M. Vukotich to Moukhtar Pasha.

(Traduction.)

Grahowatz, le 21 Octobre / 2 Novembre, 1876.

M. le Maréchal,

LE 21 de ce mois à midi mon Gouvernement m'annonça que la Sublime Porte, sur la proposition de la Russie, accepte un armistice de deux mois à partir du 20 courant.

En conséquence, pour éviter tout malentendu et tout conflit pendant ce laps de temps, je me fais un devoir de vous indiquer la ligne que l'armée sous mon commandement continuera à occuper. Cette ligne partant de Sutorina se dirige à travers Zubzi sur Grahowatz; de là longeant la frontière de Baniani, sur Plana; puis en suivant la route par Korito, sur Zernitza Stepen; ensuite, par Kerstatz et Ravno, elle rejoint le confluent de la Piva et de la Tara.

Outre l'armée qui fait face à vos positions à Grahowatz, les commandants des corps détachés placés à Korito, Kerstatz, Ravno, et du poste de Sutorina reçoivent de moi l'ordre d'interdire tout mouvement au delà de la ligne indiquée. En même temps, j'en informe votre Excellence nos "tchettas" qui se trouvent en dehors de cette ligne sont rappelés aujourd'hui même par des exprès, et rejoindront de suite leurs corps respectifs.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) P. VUKOTICH.

No. 392.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 222. Political.)

Cettigné, November 9, 1876.

My Lord,

IN all my recent conversations with Prince Nicholas, His Highness has reverted to the hope which he entertains that Her Majesty's Government will use their influence at Constantinople to obtain for him the cession of a port on the Adriatic. The Prince is very well aware that Austria, however willing she may be to support his views in regard to other extensions of the Montenegrin frontier, is not so anxious to help him to a seaport which will render him independent of the present transit route viâ Cattaro; and that he cannot therefore count upon the joint action of the English and Austrian Governments in this particular direction.

I hope that I need not assure your Lordship that I have never allowed the Prince to imagine that Her Majesty's Government have expressed any opinion in favour of

any territorial concessions whatever to Montenegro. To all His Highness's observations I have invariably replied that I would do my best to report His Highness's observations faithfully; but that I have no instructions from Her Majesty's Government upon the subject other than those originally telegraphed to me before my departure from Ragusa, in which your Lordship informed me that Her Majesty's Government had proposed to the Porte to make peace with Montenegro on the basis of the *status quo ante*.

Your Lordship is, however, aware that for many months past I have given my fullest adhesion to the view entertained by those who have studied this question for years on the spot, and who think that the only possible policy towards Montenegro is one of conciliation and generosity. The other alternative—that of suppression by force—Turkey has shown herself utterly incapable of executing. Montenegro, in the position which she has hitherto been compelled to adopt, is a standing menace to the Porte; and, as I expressed it in a former despatch, a disaster for Europe. But I see no reason why this dangerous situation should not be converted into one not only harmless, but beneficent; nor why, as Prince Nicholas says, he should not become a good and useful friend to the Porte.

The latter has now, I presume, decided upon concessions of some kind as the price of future tranquillity, and will, in all probability, recognise without difficulty that the cession of those hill districts, inhabited by tribes over whom she has never had more than a nominal control, will redound to her advantage, and not to her detriment. These considerations, however, do not apply to the question of a seaport, which, it seems to me, is of infinitely more importance to the Western Powers than to the three Empires, and will very probably be dropped altogether by the latter in the forthcoming negotiations. I wish to lay no undue stress upon the commercial advantages which would result to Montenegro from such a possession. They would be at first, and for some time, probably, inconsiderable; for much will have to be taught to these people before they will learn to profit by the opportunity of direct commercial contact with foreign nations. But I think that it is of consequence to obtain for the Western Powers means of access to, and communication with, the Principality, independent of the present channels; and of attempting, in however small a degree, to exercise that civilizing influence which must inevitably attend even the early development of commercial enterprise.

I trust that your Lordship will not think that I am indulging in unfounded hopes or exaggerated anticipations of the sudden and absolute conversion of these restless mountaineers, whose sole pursuits hitherto have been pastoral and agricultural (and these rather desultory than continuous), into a pacific and industrious population. It is true that the Prince assures me that opportunity alone is wanting to effect such a transmutation; but I do not consider that I have as yet sufficient knowledge of the country to subscribe unhesitatingly to such an opinion. But I think that the chances of success are so promising that the experiment is well worth trying upon the grounds upon which I have recommended it. Moreover, as Montenegro has no claim whatever for any such concession, the Porte would, in making it, be acting with a generosity which would, in my belief, be well bestowed. From what I see and hear, the Montenegrins are by no means averse to the notion that they should make friends with their neighbours, and have lately been at pains to show this.

With regard to the danger that a Montenegrin seaport would become a Russian harbour, I am of opinion that a glance at the map suffices to demonstrate that such an apprehension is illusory. There is no harbour that Turkey could concede to the Principality which could be made use of for any such purpose, even if the Porte went so far in generosity as to cede the district of Antivari.

In the view of Her Majesty's Government there may be other considerations, of which I have no knowledge, which may disincline them to favour the policy I have ventured to recommend. All that I can do is to submit to your Lordship the conclusions which I have formed after much reflection, and many conversations with persons of conflicting opinions and diverse nationalities.

The policy of the Porte towards Montenegro has hitherto been a failure; a continuance in that policy threatens increased disasters; is it not then worth the while of the Ottoman Government to consider seriously whether a policy of conciliation and generosity may not repair past misfortunes and ensure future tranquillity?

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 393.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 224. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettigné, November 9, 1876.*

M. STANKO RADONICH, the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has returned to Cettigné from his military command in the field, communicated to me to-day, by order of Prince Nicholas, the letters of which the inclosed are copies, and which relate to the correspondence transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 221 of the 6th instant.

Constant Pasha is to arrive at Cettigné this evening; but as General Ignatiew has telegraphed that all questions of principle are to be discussed at Constantinople, it is not easy to see what object his journey will serve.

The Italian Agent has gone to Ragusa; the Servian Envoy starts for Belgrade to-morrow; the Austrian Agent has been summoned at once to Vienna by Count Andrassy; and the French Agent has telegraphed to the Duc Decazes that his presence in Montenegro is no longer necessary. The Russian Agent will of course not leave the Prince as long as I am here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 393.

Dervish Pasha to M. Petrovich.

M. le Commandant, *Podgoritza, le* 21 Octobre / 2 Novembre 1876.

J'ACCUSE réception de votre lettre du 21 Octobre / 2 Novembre 1876. Suivant les ordres que j'ai reçus de Constantinople, les troupes Impériales appartenant à la division militaire de Scutari (d'Albanie) ont reçu de ma part l'ordre nécessaire de cesser, à partir de la date connue, toute opération offensive; tout en comptant cependant comme autant de positions ...ditaires, les points qu'elles ont occupés. Vous pouvez être sûr en même temps que nos troupes n'agiront pas même d'une manière défensive sans y être provoquées de votre part.

Quant à une autre question qui est mentionnée dans votre lettre, vu qu'elle est complètement étrangère aux opérations militaires, je ne puis vous y répondre d'aucune façon sans y avoir reçu de Constantinople des instructions spéciales sur ce sujet. Je ne doute pas que vous en conviendrez vous aussi.

J'aime à croire qu'on n'ait pas tiré de la citadelle de Spush postérieurement aux ordres que j'ai donnés à la garnison de cette place. Toutefois j'ai ordonné qu'on aille aux informations pour vérifier ce fait.

Cependant, il est fort probable, si une telle chose ont lieu effectivement, que la cause en ait été qu'un certain nombre de vos hommes se soient approchés tout armés de nos positions militaires avant que nous nous entendions ensemble sur ce que nous avons à faire.

En répondant aux expressions amicales que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser à cette occasion, je m'empresse d'en faire autant et de vous prier d'agréer, &c.

Le Maréchal Commandant-en-chef la Division
Militaire de Scutari (Albanie),
(Signé) DERVISH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 393.

Moukhtar Pasha to M. Vukotich.

M. le Voivode; *Zaslap, le 7 Novembre, 1876.*

CONFORMEMENT à la lettre que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous adresser hier, son Excellence Constant Pacha, Gouverneur du Sandjak de Gatzko, revêtu de la qualité de délégué du commandement général de l'armée Impériale de l'Herzégovine, se rend à Grahowo, à l'effet de s'entendre avec vous au sujet de la démarcation des limites pendant les deux mois d'armistice. Je suis certain, M. le Voivode, que son Excellence

Constant Pacha ne rencontrera aucune difficulté de votre part dans l'accomplissement de sa mission à la satisfaction des partis intéressés.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) AHMED MOUKTAR.

No. 394.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 58. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, November 10, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman, and of its inclosure, the copy of a telegram from the French and Italian Consuls at Cettigné to Moukhtar Pasha, regarding the line of demarcation between the Turkish and Montenegrin forces during the armistice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 394.

Vice-Consul Freeman to Consul Holmes.

Sir, *Mostar, November 7, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a telegraphic despatch addressed by the French and Italian Consuls at Cettigné to his Excellency Moukhtar Pasha, and forwarded through the Ottoman Consulate at Ragusa to his Excellency Aali Pasha, Governor of the Herzegovina. Aali Pasha has, however, refused to take any action in the matter, as he says, in the absence of all instructions from his Government, he cannot recognize the right of MM. Ceccaldi and Durando to make a similar communication. He has therefore left the Ottoman Consul at Ragusa to forward this despatch, if he thinks fit, to Moukhtar Pasha.

It is thought that Prince Nicholas, in fixing this line of demarcation between the Montenegrin and Turkish forces during the armistice, is only feeling his way towards eventually demanding an extension of his frontiers to those limits, and from a military point of view it would not be a disadvantageous line for the Porte. It would form a much stronger and more defensible frontier than the actual one, and, indeed, beyond it the Turkish force has never been able to hold its ground, while from a material point of view, with the exception of the Plain of Nicksich, the loss would be trifling to Turkey, and it is generally admitted that in any future rectification of the frontier whatever the Porte cannot hope to retain Nicksich.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 394.

Telegram from the French and Italian Consuls at Cettigné to Moukhtar Pasha.

Ragusé, le 5 Octobre, 1876.

LE Commandant-en-chef des forces Monténégrines en Herzégovine, par ordre du Prince Nicolas, fait connaître à votre Excellence la ligne occupée par les troupes sous ses ordres, savoir: Une ligne partant de Sutorina se dirigeant à travers Zubci sur Grticovatz, de là longeant la frontière de Banjani sur Plana, puis suivant la route par Korito sur Zernitz-astéssen, ensuite rejoignant par Kristach à Ravno le confluent de la Piva et de la Tara. Outre l'armée qui fait face à vos positions a Grahovatz, les commandants des corps détachés placés à Kristach, Ravno, Sutorina reçoivent ordre d'interdire tout nouvement au delà de la ligne sus-indiquée, et toutes les Tchetas Monténégrines en dehors de cette ligne sont rappelées.

Son Altesse nous a priés, en notre qualité de Délégués des Puissances, de prendre acte de cette démarche à laquelle répondra sans doute une communication analogue de votre Excellence.

(Signé) COLONNA.
DURANDO.

No. 395.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 270. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, November 11, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying despatch relative to the Circassian settlers in Thessaly, which I have received under a flying seal from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, together with copies of a Confidential despatch, and its inclosure, which the same Consul has addressed to me, relative to the strength of the Ottoman forces in Thessaly and Epirus; to acts of brigandage in Macedonia; and to the reported movements and plans of the Grand Dukes Constantine and Michael, and of the Russian forces concentrated at Odessa and in Bessarabia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure 1 in No. 395.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Stuart.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Salonica, November 8, 1876.*

THE inclosed telegram has been confidentially communicated to me.

I also learn from good authority that a telegraphic order in cypher from the Porte was wired through Salonica last night to the Commander-in-chief of the troops at Scodra to detach eleven battalions from his army for service in Epirus. This will raise the army in Thessaly and Epirus to about thirty battalions and one regiment of cavalry, not including the artillery, of which I believe there are five batteries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—I have just been informed that forty brigands, supposed to be Greeks, attacked and plundered on the 5th instant, Koushan Bey's farm, two hours' distant from Vodina—a town in Macedonia.

They murdered one women and wounded another; both Mahommedans.

Last month I reported that Alizotti Bey, an influential Turkish proprietor in district of Veria, was carried off by brigands.

It is now stated that they have murdered him.

I very much fear that these outrages are intentionally perpetrated for the purpose of exciting the Mahommedans against the Christians.

J. E. B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 395.

Telegram communicated confidentially to Consul Blunt.

Vienna, November 7, 1876, 9 P.M.

Au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, Constantinople.

UN télégramme de la "Nouvelle Press Libre" de ce soir, datée Jassi, rapporte que les Grands Ducs Constantine et Michel sont arrivés Kichineff, ont pris le commandement des quatre corps de l'armée concentrés à Odessa, Bender et Kichineff; il aurait été décidé de transporter sous peu de cette dernière ville, et pour dix jours, le quartier général près de Moldau (?) d'où il partirait pour aller occuper les positions de la frontière du Danube Choumla, Roustchouk, Toulcha, et Kalafat.

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Cette expédition militaire n'aurait pour but une guerre contre la Turquie, mais bien une simple menace pour le cas où la Turquie ne voudrait pas exécuter les réformes proposés pour la Bosnie, la Bulgarie, et l'Herzégovine.

(Signé) ALECO VOGORIDES.

No. 396.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 204. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, November 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of my despatch No. 152, addressed this day to Sir Henry Elliot.

"General Tchernaieff's departure to Russia postponed."

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 396.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, November 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, owing to some intelligence received by General Tchernaieff from Russia, that officer has had some reason to postpone his intended visit to his country, and he remains at Belgrade for the present.

Under his advice Prince Milan intends, I learn, to garrison Belgrade and Kragouyévatz almost entirely with Russian soldiers in his service.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 397.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 810. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, November 16, 1876.*

ACCORDING to confidential information which has been received here, I understand that General Ignatiew has stated that the real business of the Conference to be held at Constantinople must be carried on at the preliminary meetings of the Representatives, and that when the formal Conference takes place, the result of their deliberations must be submitted to the Porte for its acceptance or refusal.

I am also told that he contemplates arrangements for the different provinces, by which the Governors shall be appointed by the Porte for a term of five years, but that, in all other respects, the administration shall be carried on by natives; and that a native military force shall be established in each province, in which the words of command shall be given in the language of the Christians. He will also, it is said, insist upon the expulsion of the Circassian Colonies from Bulgaria.

For these proposals he is further alleged to have expressed himself confident of receiving the support of Lord Salisbury.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 398.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 811. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, November 16, 1876.*

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch No. 810 of this date, on the subject of the administrative autonomy which General Ignatiew is expected to propose for the Slavonic provinces of Turkey, I observed to-day to Baron Orczy that I understood the Italian Government were not likely to support a proposal for the expulsion of the Circassian colonists from Bulgaria; but His Excellency answered that, if such a proposal were made by Russia, there was little or no probability of its meeting with any resistance from Italy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 399.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 812.)

My Lord, *Vienna, November 16, 1876.*

A SIMILAR inquiry having been received by the Austro-Hungarian Government respecting the provisioning of the population of Nichsich as that addressed to your Lordship in Mr. Monson's telegram of yesterday, an answer has been sent to Ragusa, stating that all such questions must be decided at Constantinople.

As to the meeting of the Military Delegates at the Russian Consulate at Ragusa, Baron Orczy said to me to-day that the question seemed to be one which depended upon the advantages which the locality might possess.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 400.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 813.)

My Lord, *Vienna, November 17, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Monson reports that he learns from Constant Pasha that five Turkish battalions will probably embark at Ragusa for Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 401.

Mr. Strachey to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 47.)

My Lord, *Dresden, November 16, 1876.*

A FEW days ago I drew the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the plan persistently attributed to Prince Bismarck in some quarters, and treated by Russian diplomatists as an axiom above all discussion, according to which the eventualities of the Eastern question include the dismemberment of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy by Russia and Germany. I said that although the Prince's antecedents were not beyond reproach, they hardly warranted the belief that he was capable of a crime more flagitious than the League of Cambray, or the worst usurpations of Louis XIV, or Napoleon I. Was there any justification known in German political circles for the said suspicion?

Herr von Nostilz replied that, in his opinion, all this was mere wild talk. He had never heard any sensible person attribute to Bismarck schemes, or even wishes, unfavourable to the continuance of Austria within her present dimensions. If Bismarck wanted to destroy his own work, the German Empire, he could not begin

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better than by announcing hostility to Austria, which would rouse the jealousies of the Bavarians, Wurtembergers and others, and be reprobated everywhere. Bismarck was very strong, but strength had its limits. With all his power, he would be unable to drive Germany into an aggression for which no political cry or necessity could be invoked, nor any other ground but the circumstance that a good opportunity for plunder had turned up. It was scarcely conceivable that the Germans, however otherwise docile, would permit so fatal and dastardly a course against the very Power which their sentiments and their interests alike called them to sustain. The annexation of parts of Austria might be a logical deduction from the doctrines of certain publicists, but whatever the errors and exaggerations of the National Liberals, it would would be calumny to describe them as wishing for the territorial changes supposed. As far as he knew, their repudiation of such aspirations would be as emphatic as that of his own friends the Free-Conservatives.

The Minister's remarks on German sympathies for Austria agree with a statement of Dr. Löwe Calbe, the President of the Stuttgart Rump Parliament of 1849, now head of the Fortschritt "Cave" in the Reichstag. That eminent politician told me that the Austrian connection was the one foreign alliance which the several liberal fractions had at heart, their grand aversion being Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. STRACHEY.

No. 402.

Mr. Strachey to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Dresden, November 17, 1876.*

THE hopes encouraged by the announcement of the armistice have been dissipated by the declarations of Lord Beaconsfield and the Emperor of Russia. The Minister for Foreign Affairs told me some days ago, that, according to his observations, our Premier's speech had caused general alarm, the allusions to the resources of England seeming to indicate the belief that our men and money would soon be put in requisition.

The previous pessimism of the Dresden and Leipzig Stock Exchanges, where the daily quotations only represent the most limited transactions, had little scope for aggravation; nevertheless financial and commercial business are in a still more stagnant and hopeless state than before.

The public journals begin to treat the specific Turkish difficulty as of secondary importance, the foreground being now filled by the more serious question of war between England and Russia. The Fortschritt and Particularist organs are more hostile than ever to Servia and Russia, and well disposed to us. The National Liberal papers have been adopting Herr von Treitschke's prostrate tone towards Russia. They have contrasted the policy and language of Lord Beaconsfield with that of the Czar, to the great disadvantage of our Premier, of whom, as the National Liberal cue prescribes, they speak with an insolence in which they dare not indulge towards German statesmen. However to-day's Leipzig "Allgemeine Zeitung" (ultra National Liberal) says that, if Russia brings up new demands, it will be the duty of the other Powers to meet her with an effective joint resistance. The "Presse" writes, that the Czar has at last unveiled his motives, which are race-hatred and love of conquest, and his object, which is war. The Social Democrat organ sneers at all sides, but shows a preponderant hostility to Russia, calling the Emperor "Bramarbas" (the German equivalent of Pyrgopolinices), and advising him to grant the Christians in Russia the liberties which he hypocritically asks for the Christians in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. STRACHEY.

No. 403.

Mr. Jerningham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Darmstadt, November 17, 1876.*

COUNT DE LAUNAY, Italian Ambassador at Berlin, who is also accredited to the Southern Courts in Germany, was present the night before last at a dinner given

in his honour by Baron Starck, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom he had previously had an interview of some duration.

Baron Starck informed me confidentially that having spoken to the Count on the subject of the anxiety felt by Germany as to the part which the Government of the Empire was likely to take in the daily increasing difficulties of the Eastern question, his Excellency had replied that he had every reason to believe that Prince Bismarck was decided to pronounce himself very shortly on the subject.

Knowing the importance of this statement, if correct, I sent your Lordship a telegram to that effect, and in the words of my preceding despatch No. 47 of yesterday's date, so as to place the statement on record, leaving it to your Lordship to determine its value.

Count de Launay called on me yesterday and again to-day, and was good enough to speak of his own accord on several subjects of German and general interest, with a view, as I presume, to ascertain how far his own opinions were corroborated by the observations of others in these parts.

In the course of the conversation, his Excellency spoke of German apprehensions and prospects, and said that at Berlin there appeared still to exist a real fear of France, which, to a certain extent, if it did not paralyse the action of the Government, at least made it extremely cautious, and that lately this fear had been increased by the doubt as to whether, in the event of France and Russia forming an alliance, Austria would not find it advantageous to join in it, and that these notions were fast ripening into belief.

To my question whether his Excellency did not think that, under these circumstances, it would be necessary for the Imperial Chancellor to explain shortly to the world how he intended to preserve or to shed "the blood of Germans in Germany's interest alone," the Count replied that Prince Bismarck was evidently postponing the day as long as he could, there being no reason, either of health or otherwise, to keep him at Varzin, but he did not betray his confidential communication to the Hessian Minister.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUBERT E. H. JERNINGHAM.

No. 404.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 513.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 18, 1876.*

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 698 of the 13th instant has only reached me to-day by Queen's Messenger, and the question it conveys in regard to the acceptance of the Conference by the German Government was answered by me in my despatch to your Lordship No. 495 of the 10th instant, and telegrams recorded in my despatches Nos. 505 and 506 of the 14th and 15th instant.

The German Government, faithful to their principle of benevolent neutrality, waited until the other Guaranteeing Powers were agreed to accept the bases proposed by Her Majesty's Government, before they declared their own official acceptance of the programme they had in principle already adhered to, as I had telegraphed to your Lordship on the 6th instant, recorded in my No. 590.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 405.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 20, 4·12 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 20, 1876, 3·10 P.M.*

THE Russian Consul-General has notified to Her Majesty's Consulate-General here that henceforth vessels will be prohibited from approaching by night the harbours of Odessa and Sebastopol, the mouth of the Dnieper and the Strait of Kertch-Yenikale. On approaching these ports by day vessels are to stop and communicate with the guard-ship at anchor outside each of them, which will provide them with pilots to guide them through the impediments which have been laid down in those passages.

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The entrance of the above-named ports without the assistance of the guard-ship is absolutely prohibited.

No. 406.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 20, 7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, November* 20, 1876, 4·20 P.M.

MODIFICATION of Ministry probable with M. Kostaki Eupureano as President, with majority in Cabinet.

M. Bratiano, perhaps, remains as Minister of the Interior.

Policy: troops sent home, unarmed neutrality. Roumania will only take arms in event of Austro-English alliance for maintenance of Treaty of Paris of 1856.

M. Kostaki is honest and capable.

Please not communicate to Prince John Ghika.

No. 407.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 775.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 20, 1876.

YOUR telegraphic despatch stating that the Porte had agreed, after the assembling of a General Council on the 18th instant, to the proposed Conference having been received, the Marquis of Salisbury left England this morning, with the members of the Special Embassy, to proceed to Constantinople.

As your Excellency is already aware, the proposals made by Her Majesty's Government on the 4th instant have already been accepted by the Governments of the other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

END

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